

I. Four Goals of an Essay

1. Have an Argument:

- Make a strong, well-presented argument about your topic: Answer the research question and sub-questions you outlined in assignment #1

(20marks/50)

2. Do Research:

- Your Argument is based on solid research from *academic* ('refereed') secondary sources (at least three sources)

(10marks/50)

3. Express your ideas Clearly:

- Your argument is clearly expressed using complete sentences and correct grammar (the reader knows what is being said without re-reading)

(10 marks/50)

4. Follow technical conventions:

- You have: a title page, footnotes, bibliography, and your essay is double-spaced

(10 marks/50):

2. Three steps for Researching and Writing an Essay

Step #1: Formulate a Question

- Formulate a clear and focused research question and series of sub questions

Step #2: Do the Research (not the night before)

- Read sources that might answer your sub questions.
- Take Notes and build an argument
 1. Make 'reading notes'
 - notes taken as you read that relate somehow to one or more of your subquestions
 2. Make 'argument notes'
 - Using 'reading notes' make notes outlining the answers/argument relating to each subquestion
 3. Make an overall argument/thesis:
 - Is based on your argument notes
 - Answers your main research question

Step #3: Write the Essay

1. Organize your 'argument notes' into a detailed essay outline:

- Introduction (with your overall argument)
- First argument/point
- Second
- Third
- Conclusion (notes on the 'significance' of what you have argued)

2. Write:

- follow your outline and use clear sentences and paragraphs
- Include footnotes as you go
- Bibliography at the end

3. The Finished Essay

- 6 or so Paragraphs:
 - Introduction:
 - Introduce the topic
 - Have a clearly stated focus statement or argument
 - *“What I argue here is that the French Revolution was really about the cost of bread and not about Enlightenment ideals. I make this argument by exploring first how the bread costs were rising, and then how the poor responded to these costs. I conclude by looking at how the Enlightenment thinkers really had little influence on the lives of most members of French society”*
 - Section #1: *explain the falling costs of bread*
 - Section #2: *Explain why the responses of the poor to bread costs was so significant*
 - Section #3: *Show the limited impact of Enlightenment ideas*
 - Conclusion:
 - Repeat overall argument and how it was shown
 - Suggest a ‘significance’
 - *This finding suggests that the Revolution was about material wealth and not really about ideals of rationalism and democracy...*