

The first thing to do when studying English is **read your prescribed texts**. This may seem obvious but lots of students try to get away with just reading notes or watching movie versions. **Read the text!**

Use a highlighter as a bookmark. When something seems important during your reading, highlight it. I highlight entire pages, entire paragraphs, sometimes just one word on an entire page.

Look up words you don't understand. Work with your text so that you get the most out of it.

**When you look at your assignment topic for the first time, don't feel scared or overwhelmed.**

**The lecturers do not want you to fail** – they want you to do well but they need to teach you to think critically. Always have the outcomes of the unit in your mind and try to fulfil them while answering your essay question. Thinking about this will narrow your focus and help.

**So, you get your essay topic. This is what you do:**

**Read the question carefully** and **break down what the question wants you to do**. Write down the question and start interrogating it. What does it want you to do? Agree or disagree? In this case there will be a statement that you need to analyse and decide, "Yes, I agree", or "No, I don't agree". Do you need to think creatively and come up with new ideas?

First write out the question. **It helps to look at things in your own handwriting.**

Writing an essay is about working with yourself and your own brain. **You get to decide what goes on the paper based on the question.** Do not let yourself down but not reading and preparing and researching.

**Writing an essay give you a chance to communicate your thoughts, and express your thoughts and personality.** It showcases your observation skills. Everyone is different so books mean different things to each of us and we all see things that happen in books differently, or we learn from books and grow and our opinions sometimes are challenged by what we learn. This adds to your knowledge and in your essay, you get to show off your knowledge.