# ESSAY TEMPLATE

# Some guidelines to assist in preparation for the major essay due Friday Week 4



Name
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#### Assessment:

You will be assessed on

- Quality of understanding and interpretation
- Relevance of your response
- Use of supporting material (reference to the poems)
- Coherence of structure
- Fluency and coherence of expression
- Organisation of ideas
- Technical accuracy (spelling, expression, punctuation, grammar, structure).

#### Submission and Miscellaneous:

All students need to refer to the guidelines governing plagiarism, attendance and submission of items as outlined by the English/History Faculty.

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# The Essay

#### The Header

This is a quotation that really offers broad support of your central ideas in relation to the topic. Placed at the top of your response it is like an umbrella under which the rest of your ideas can gather. It offers a framework for the rest of your response and an initial hook for your reader(so, choose it carefully to meet this end). It might be a key quotation from the text or it could be another source which offers a thematic connection to the angle you've chosen.

### The Introduction

An effective introduction fulfills a number of functions:

- Hooks your reader- use a quotation, dramatic anecdote, or a striking generalization about the text or the question you are attempting. Remember that a great intro is like a springboard into the rest of your response...and the reader has to want to go there!!!
- Outlines your position in relation to the question...but don't overdo it as great
  essays are a journey of discovery and you don't want to give away too much
  about the destination before you start. Avoid listing what you are going to talk
  about (keep your mystery!) and heavy handed definitions of the Oxford or
  Macquarie variety should be avoided too.

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# The Body

This is where you *explain* and *expand* your view stated in the introduction. You need to use the <u>poems as supporting evidence</u>. Ensure you maintain **relevance** in your discussion.

# **Paragraphing**

The paragraph content is a little dry in the handout but the principles hold true. It is recommended reading. Connectives make for reader friendly essays that allow for fairly seamless transitions from one idea to the next. They don't have to be employed between *all* paragraphs but they are a very useful technique to flag where your argument is headed. Have a look at the examples in the handout on paragraphing again for inspiration.

- Good paragraphs have nice open-ended topic sentences which introduce your key idea but leave your paragraph with room to develop.
- All subsequent sentences enlarge, exemplify, explain and develop your ideas.
- Most paragraphs benefit from several direct quotations which serve to reinforce your argument, break the text by introducing a different tone or voice to substantiate your claims, and can add energy and conviction to your debate. They're the icing on the already substantial cake of your argument so do include them as an aid to the digestion of your ideas (I think I should stop this metaphor now...) You might find the table of connectives for every occasion a useful sheet to revisit too.

In the body you need to develop/explore around 4 different aspects of an overall contention (as stated in your intro) with only one aspect being explored in each section (paragraph).

1. Introduce your first main point of exploration. Provide a topic sentence and then develop this concept with discussion and exploration.

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4.Introc	luce your <b>fourth point</b> of discussion/exploration and provide detail to support w.
	The conclusion
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that mak	sk of pointing out the obvious, it is the last thing your examiner will read so tes it your last opportunity to impress!! conclusion:
• ]	Draws your ideas together using <i>fresh language</i> to give your summing up a sense of flourish and connection to your original contention.  Ends on a poetic or lyrical note. You've done all the hard work and you can
2 3	afford to allude to the inspiration your deep familiarity with this text has given you. Quotations can be used to great effect to achieve this end but strong statements work well too.
Now re	ad back over your work carefully. Have you:
	Answered the question?
	Provided a clear topic sentence for each paragraph?
	Provided supportive evidence/material from the poems?
	Provided relevant, appropriate material?
	Checked your spelling, punctuation, expression and grammar?
	Written a fluent, coherent and logically organised response to the topic?
	Filled in the cover sheet on the back of the essay topics?