

Essay Writing

Introduction

This should focus on the specifics of the question and make clear that the writer knows some relevant key names (not a list) and that the theory or explanation will be evaluated.

Main body

This should always start with the theory or explanation in the question.

Each paragraph should:

- make a point
- support it with evidence
- evaluate it and
- return to the claim/point made at the start.

Paragraphs should be linked at the start to the previous paragraph using linking words/phrases such as in contrast ... or alternatively...

Evaluation

Should be positive and negative. Words/phrases such as however, but, on the other hand, in contrast, alternatively, this is supported by and so on are useful.

Conclusion

This should draw your arguments together. No new information is needed in a conclusion. It should however link back to the question.

In all answers must refer to evidence to support the claims they make and use relevant concepts.

Points to remember:

1. Whenever you write essays go through them and highlight all the evaluative words and phrases you have used. This will give you an idea as to whether you are sustaining evaluation throughout the essay or not. You may need to go back to the essay and rewrite sections.
2. Go through the essay and underline all the names of relevant sociologists you have used.

NB

Do not do this in the exam the examiner will decide who and what is relevant.

Ask yourself whether you have just named the person or whether you have explained what they say which is relevant to the point you are making.

3. Finally go through the essay and in a different coloured pen underline the concepts you have used.

NB

Ask yourself whether you have made clear your understanding of the concept.