Essay Tips from *Making the Grade: A guide to study and success*

Glossary

**Analyze:** Explore component parts in order to understand how the whole thing works. It can also mean to examine closely.

**Compare:** Look at similarities and differences between ideas, places, & events (often used in conjunction with Contrast).

**Contrast:** Give a detailed account of the differences between selected phenomena (often used in conjunction with Compare).

**Describe:** Outline the characteristics of some phenomenon without necessarily interpreting them.

**Deductive Argument:** An argument where no evidence is needed because you argue from the premises that are known to be true to a conclusion that necessarily follows from those premises.

**Inductive Argument:** An argument that build a case for the probability of its claim being true.

Parts of a paragraph

**Topic Sentence:** States the main idea

**Supporting Sentence(s):** These are the “why” and “how” examples to support the topic sentence

**Clincher:** May summarize the paragraph, echo the topic sentence or ask a question. It lets the reader know the paragraph is over.

Parts of an Essay

**The Introduction:**
- State your aim or purpose clearly. What are you discussing? Do not simply repeat the question but rather engage your reader.
- Make your conceptual framework clear, outline the scope of your discussion, provide clarity to your argument / premise.
- Try and capture your reader’s attention at the outset.
- Use a clear and carefully crafted thesis statement

**The Discussion:**
- Make your case / defend your argument / thesis
Provide the reader with reasons and evidence to support your argument / thesis

• Present your material logically, precisely and in an orderly fashion

• Accompany your key points with carefully chosen, colourful and correct examples and analogies.

The Conclusion:

• State your resolution of the problem or question set out in the introduction. The conclusion should be the best possible answer to your essay question on the basis of the evidence you have discussed in the main section of the paper. It must match the strengths and balance of the material you have presented throughout your essay. Do not introduce new material.

• Discuss the broad implications of the work if appropriate and tie the conclusion neatly together with the introduction.

• When finished, read the conclusion and the introduction together. Do they make sense?

• Go back and re-read the original question and ask yourself, “Have I answered the question?”

Tips for a good essay

• Get a classmate or someone from the writing centre to proofread your essay for clarity and proper grammar / spelling, etc.

Work Cited