

How to be good at essay writing

During study all our students will inevitably encounter with writing essays which are closely connected with their research and development on the speciality and therefore require students to master a number of skills such as close reading (scanning), analysis, comparison, conciseness, clarity and exposition.

To provide the basis for a writing activity we follow two models of writing: the practical model which helps learner writers to carry out composing processes and theoretical model consisting of a system of communicative functions necessary for effective communication.

The practical model, the five stages of composing, can be viewed as a mechanism (Bhaskar, 1978) for carrying out communicative functions in written mode.

Stages of the Writing Process (help menu):

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|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Prewriting | 2. Draft writing | 3. Major editing |
| 4. Minor editing and polishing | 5. Evaluation | |

(Alessi and Trollip, 1991)

If you want your students to be successful essay writers such language skills as listening, speaking (discussion) and reading should be included in the writing class. For this purpose provide guidance throughout the writing process, describe the actions and strategies students should use to achieve their goals for writing, help them organise the ideas into main and subordinate and sequence for writing a first draft, modifying it accordingly for receiving a final product. Try to give students an opportunity to analyze each other's work during the class or to critique their work in small groups, ask them to talk about their writing in progress by reading it to each other in small groups or in pairs and revise it. If teachers make their best efforts to arouse curiosity and self-confidence of students to the writing topic and work closely with them offering useful advice and encourage them, students will take a giant step forward in writing.