

# Student Hub Live people



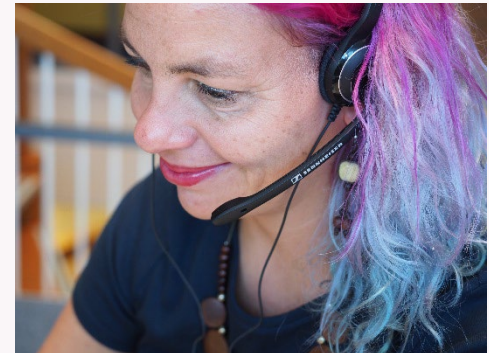
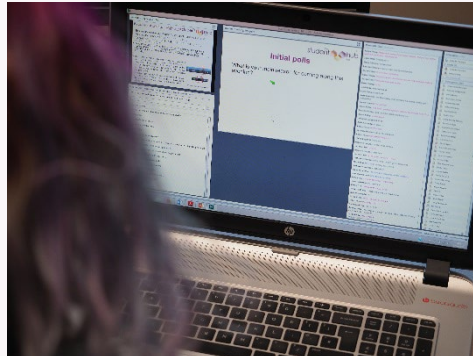
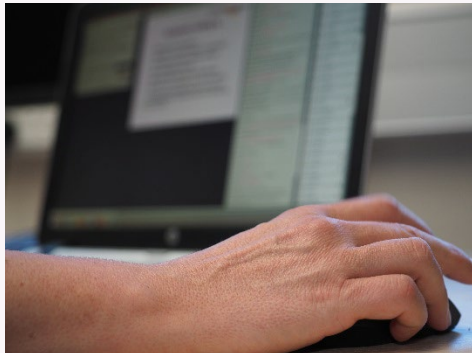
Margaret Greenhall is a study skills specialist. She has applied the same skills as you'll use in writing essays to write a book. She tutors on science level 1 and 2 courses. She is also an OU student on S209 Geology. She did her MA with the OU. Her hobbies are baking, rowing and Lego.



Amanda Smith has been an OU Law School tutor at levels 1 and 2 since 2009. During that time, she has discovered the pleasures and pitfalls of being an OU student by studying for an MA in Online and Distance Education, worked as an Educational Advisor, written tutorial, skills, and research materials. In her (very little) spare time she can be found walking the hills, tending her garden, travelling Italy, ballroom dancing and knitting to keep warm!

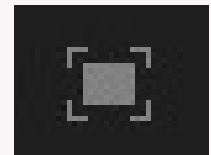
# What are student hub live online sessions?

- All student hub live sessions are non modular and focus on skills relevant to study at university level
- Polls are anonymous to other participants but the chat box will have your logged in name associated with your comments during the live session.
- All online sessions are recorded and available to view on catch up on a public facing website.
- Slides are available to download during the session (*not accessible on mobile devices*) and from <http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>.



## Please be aware

- These sessions are large scale
- They are very busy
- There is lots of interaction
- They are not the same as other tutorials
- Chat may be off topic – that's OK
- You can maximise slides on your own screen by clicking the icon



# Please

- Do NOT share any personal information in the chat pod during the session
- On the recording names will be anonymised to user number
- However if you type anyone's full name or any other personal information in the chat pod it can be seen by everybody and it would also show up on the recording

# Initial poll

What's your main reason for coming along today?

- Understand essay structure
- Hints and tips to get better
- Get ideas for planning essays
- To help me structure my thoughts
- To get new ideas
- I would like better grades
- To help stop writer's block
- Other - please use chat

# Developing your Essay Planning (Intermediate)



# This was our advert...

- In this second essay planning session we'll look in more detail at how to ensure each paragraph addresses a key element of your essay. Understanding paragraph design will help give your essays clarity for your audience. The introduction is the first thing that gets read and you need to make a grand entrance so we'll have a look at ideas for structuring your curtain raiser. Aimed at students from access to level 2.

# Help with referencing

- Remember your own module assessment guide as well as the studenthome help and the library <https://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/referencing-and-plagiarism>
- Quick guide to Harvard / cite them right  
<https://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/quick-guide-to-harvard-referencing-cite-them-right>



# First thoughts poll

What makes things easy to understand when you read?

Use the pod to add your thoughts.

**What other writing do you do?**

# Essay planning stages

- Analyse the question
- Plan the information search
- Plan the essay writing
  
- Plan your time

# Poll time

- How do you know what goes in each part of your essay?
- Please use the poll provided to say where you get information from that helps you decide what to include in each part.

# Essay parts

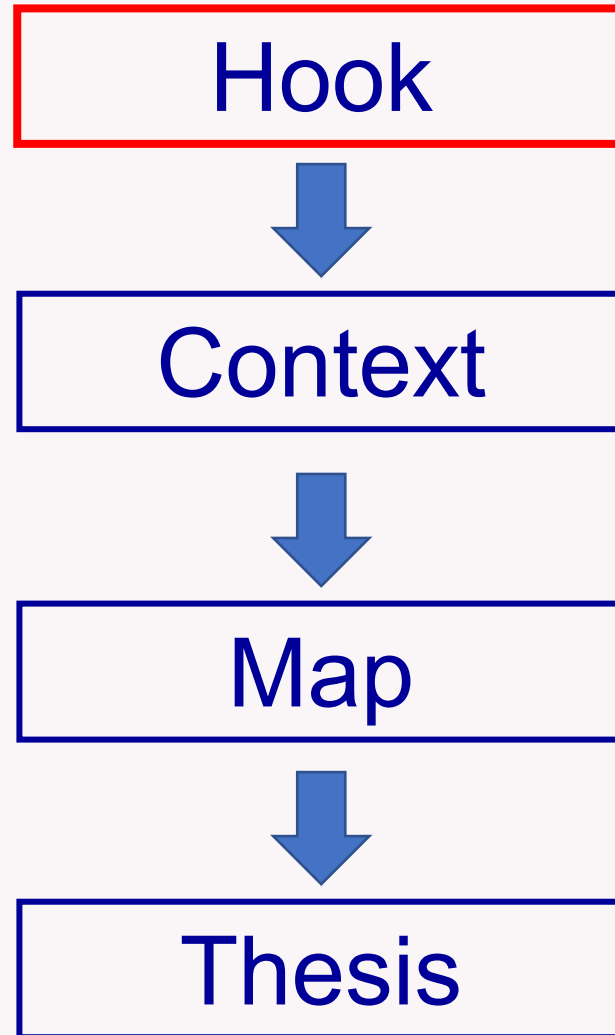


- Introduction 10 -15%
- Paragraphs 75 - 80%
- Conclusion 10%
- References

# Introduction structure idea

- Hook
  - **Headline:** How would you get someone else to read your essay in the first line?
- Context
  - **Define terms** in the question and background information
- Map
  - **A tourist guide** to your essay
- Thesis
  - **What are you going to test**, it must relate to the original question

# Paragraph structure - introduction



# Which would you read and why?

## Compare and contrast lemons and oranges.

1. This essay will describe lemons and oranges and their similarities and differences.
2. As far back as 1744, when the nursery rhyme oranges and lemons say the bells of St Clements was first recorded, oranges and lemons were being offloaded in London docks from far flung corners of the world.



**Where are hooks  
used in communication?**

**Do you have any ideas for hooks  
in your writing?**

# Paragraphs

- Need to flow
- Each one covers only one main idea
- They don't need to be very long
- Does it help answer your question?
- You can build minor points over several paragraphs to one big one.

# Understanding paragraphs



- Paragraphs
  - Topic sentence, often first sentence
  - Inter-relationship of sentences
  - Hierarchy of ideas

# Paragraph structure - depth

We have a black car.



It is an Aygo.



Aygos are made by Toyota.

# Breadth structure

My house is on  
a cal de sac



It has a  
brown  
door.

There is  
space for  
three cars.

There are  
three  
bedrooms.

# Branched structure

I teach speed reading.

It helps  
people to  
read faster.

Many people  
triple their  
reading speed.

I also teach  
improving  
your memory.

It helps people  
understand their  
memories.

# Disconnected structure

I have a Labrador.



She is called  
Rosie.



She is seven.

I like ice cream.



It cools me  
down.



My favourite  
is caramel.

# Reconnected structure

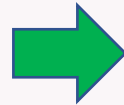
I have a Labrador.



She is called  
Rosie.



She is seven.



I like ice cream.



It cools me  
down.



It helps cool  
Rosie down too.



# Identifying the parts



**Compare and contrast** the 1500 m running race to the 2000 m on the water row. You must include data from the most recent Olympics.

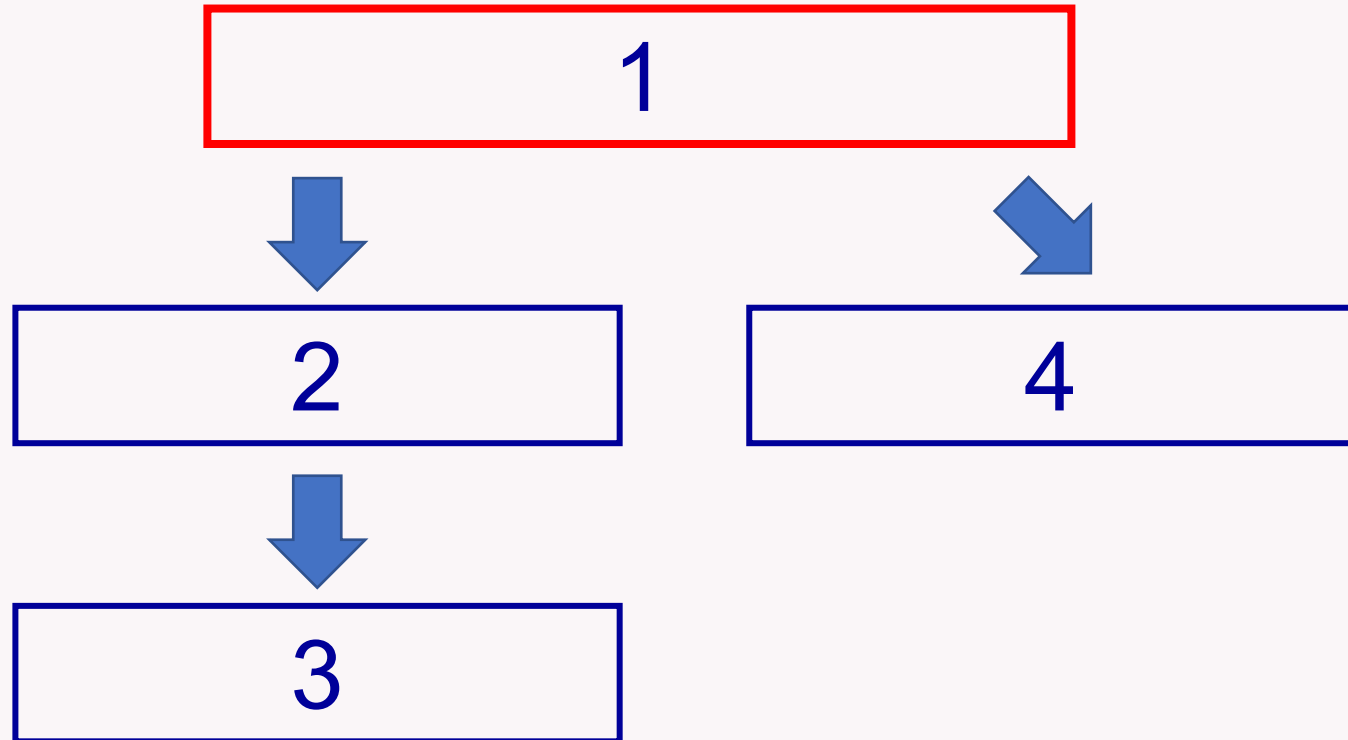
(2000 words)

**Red process**, blue topic, green criteria

## Poll: Which type of structure is this?

1. 2000m row and 1500m are both raced at similar speeds.
2. In Olympic final of 2020 Peter Piper won by running at 2.02 mins per 500m and Jack Horner rowed at 1.58 mins per 500m. (Nursery rhymes, 2021)
3. These times are within 3% of each other showing a close similarity.
4. The reasons for this will be covered in the following sections.

# Paragraph structure - branched



# Poll: What purpose do you think each sentence is performing?

1. 2000m row and 1500m are both raced at similar speeds.
2. In Olympic final 2020 Peter Piper won by running at 2.02 mins per 500m and Jack Horner rowed at 1.58 mins per 500m. (Nursery rhymes, 2021)
3. These times are within 3% of each other showing a close similarity.
4. The reasons for this will be covered in the following sections.

# Using PEEL to write paragraphs

- PEEL
  - Point – make it in first sentence
  - Evidence – support it with facts
  - Explain – why the evidence is supportive and why is it relevant
  - Link – link the paragraph to the next section and/or question gives flow to essay

# Paragraph structure - essay

Point



Evidence

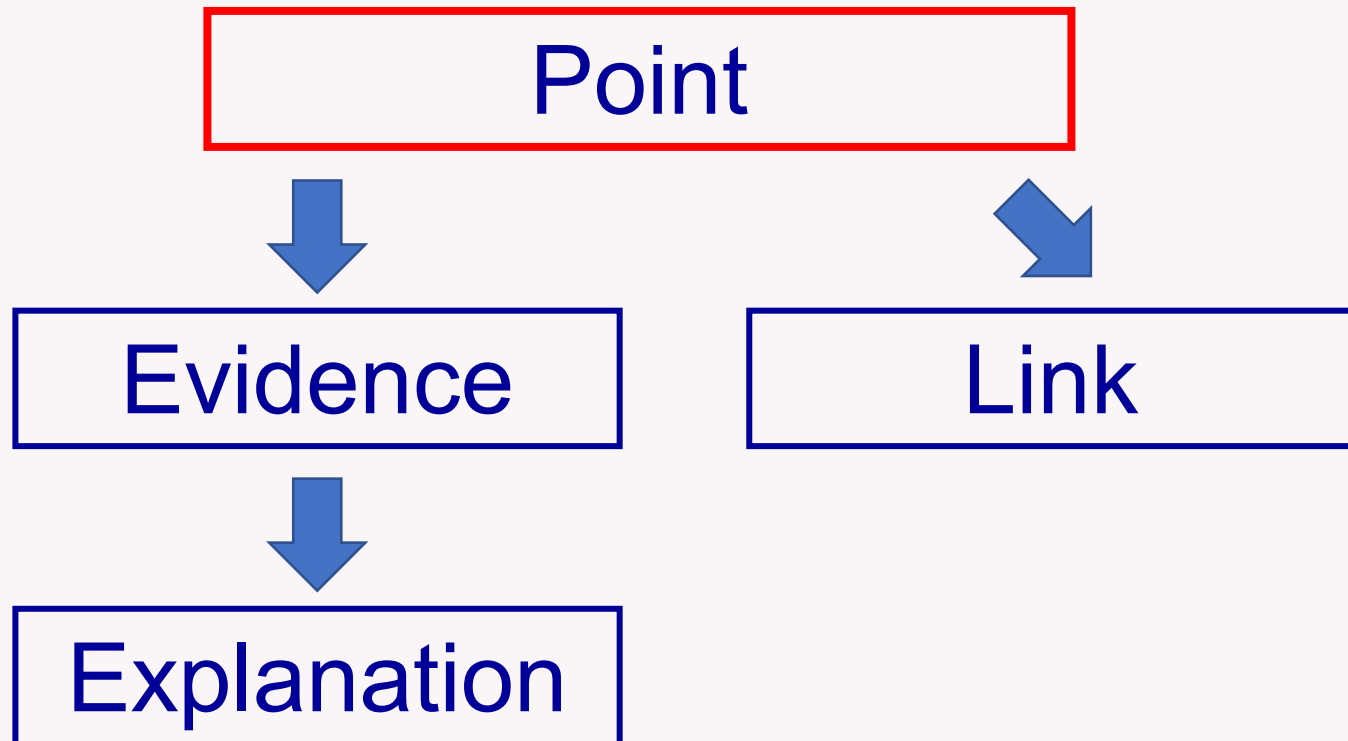


Explanation



Link

# Paragraph structure - essay



# Paragraph structure - essay

Point



Evidence



Explanation



Evidence



Explanation



Link



# Using PEEL to write



- PEEL

- **Point:** 2000m row and 1500m are both raced at similar speeds
- **Evidence:** In Olympic final 2020 Peter Piper won by running at 2.02 mins per 500m and Jack Horner rowed at 1.58 mins per 500m. (Nursery rhymes, 2021)
- **Explain:** These times are within 3% of each other showing a close similarity.
- **Link:** The reasons for this will be covered in the following sections.

# Paragraph structure - essay

1. Essay planning the most important part of completing any long assignment essay.
2. *“By failing to plan, you are preparing to fail”.*  
*Benjamin Franklin*
3. 95% of people who plan their essay get a grade of 45% or more (Jones et al 2017).
4. Essay plans therefore help people pass their courses.
5. In the next paragraph we will look at examples where poor planning has led to poor grades.

# Conclusion

- Finale point
- Main supporting points
- Link to thesis
- Link to question
- No new material
- **What do you want your audience to remember?**

# Poll

- How do you map your work?



# Mapping the essay

Essay title:			
Due date:		Number of words:	
Title: Process words Topic words Criteria			
Essay part	Content	Est. numb words	Source material
Introduction  Hook Context Map Thesis (what you're aiming to prove)	H: C: M: T:	10-15%	In text citation (ITC): End reference (ER): URL:
Paragraph 1 Point (P) Evidence (EV) Explanation (EX) Link (LK)	P: EV: EX: LK:		ITC: ER: URL:
Conclusion: Finale point: Link to Thesis Link to question Main supporting points No new material		10%	
Notes			

# Start: Title analysis

Essay title:	
Due date:	
Number of words:	
Title:	
Process words	
Topic words	
Criteria	

# Introduction

Essay part	Content	Est. numb words	Source material
Introduction Hook Context Map Thesis (what you're aiming to prove)	H: C: M: T:	10- 15%	In text citation (ITC): End reference (ER): URL:

# Paragraphs

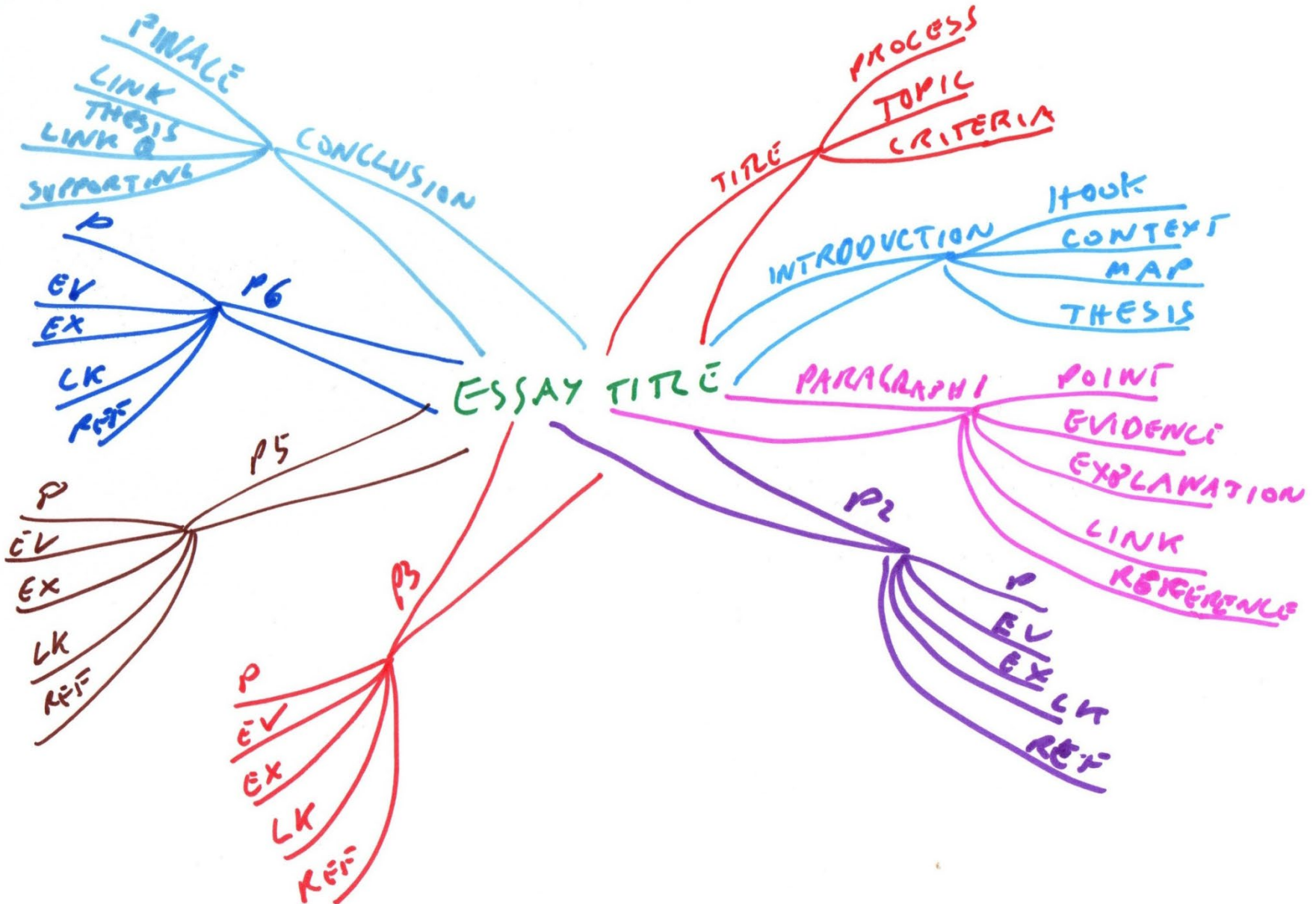
Essay part	Content	Est. numb words	Source material
Paragraph 1 Point (P) Evidence (EV) Explanation (EX) Link (LK)	P: EV: EX: LK:		ITC: ER: URL:



# Conclusion

Essay part	Content	Est. numb words	Source material
Conclusion: Finale point: Link to Thesis Link to question Main supporting points No new material		10%	
Notes			

# Mind map



# Your thoughts

- There will be 2 specific questions in chat pods for you to explore some of the elements we have discussed further.
- *I AM SUCCESSFUL AT STRUCTURING MY WRITING WHEN I....*
- *THINGS I'M GOING TO EXPLORE WHEN PLANNING MY ESSAYS....*
- You are welcome to add your thoughts and we will then pick up some of the themes and talk through them.
- Chat does have names on but the recording will be anonymised so you will appear as 'user number'

# Take home message

- Essay planning is about breaking things down into manageable sections
- You should spend more time planning than writing
- Each part has its own structure
- It isn't a single stage process

# Feedback please

Please use the following link to provide feedback to help the studenthublive team to continue to improve what we do

<https://forms.office.com/e/AU1gjxMACX>

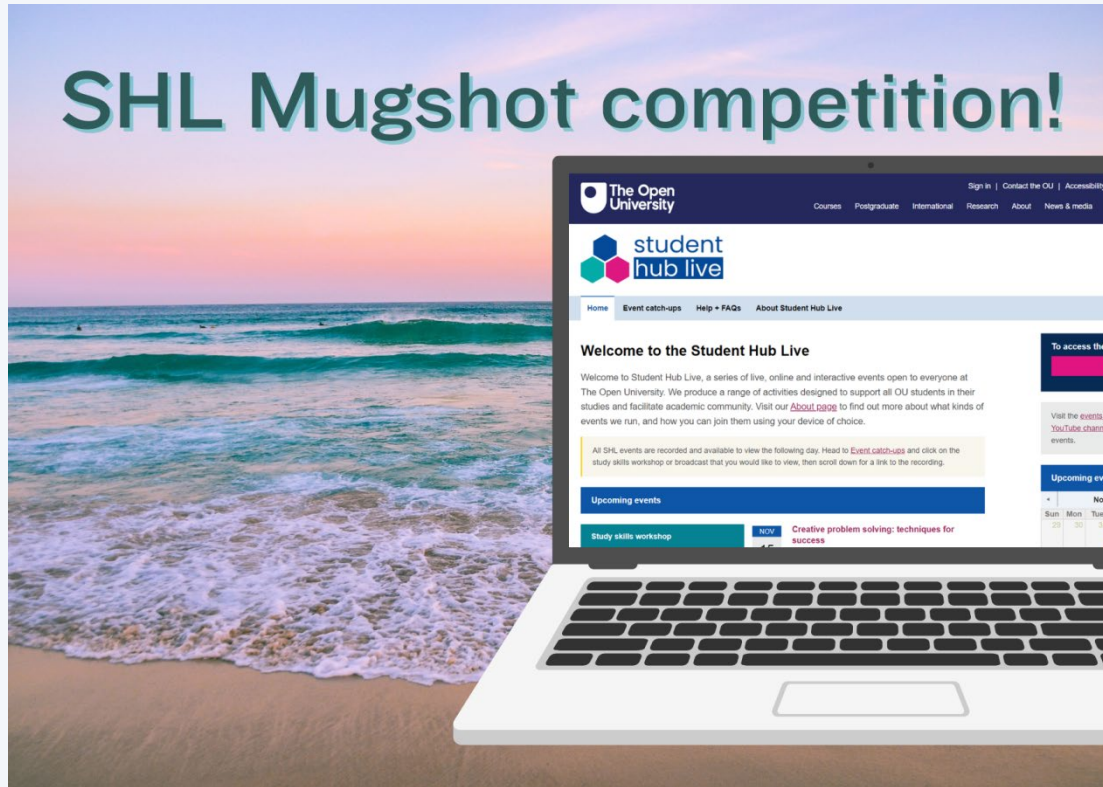
# Upcoming events



- 20 Feb 11am Tackling procrastination successfully
- 22 Feb 11am Support and wellbeing for student carers
- 28 Feb 7pm Introduction to essay writing (Beginners)
- 6 Mar 7pm Developing your essay writing (Intermediate)
- 13 Mar 11am Really understanding questions
- 19 Mar 11am Critical Thinking (Introductory)
- 21 Mar 11am Studying when you think differently (Live)

For more information on all past and upcoming events, go to <http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>

# Win a limited edition SHL mug!



Take a fun photo of your laptop/ tablet/ phone screen with an SHL event or our website on! Mugs for the 6 most creative (but safe!) places. Send to [studenthub@open.ac.uk](mailto:studenthub@open.ac.uk) by 15/3/24  
Winners shared in our newsletter and on X  
(1 entry per student)