

Process verbs for essays

Verb	Meaning
Account for	Give reasons why
Analyse	Break something down into parts then consider the relationship between them, question how they fit together
Argue	Give all sides of the discussion from different view points to the put a case for or against something
Balance	Consider the information equally looking at both good and bad points and weigh them up against each other
Clarify	Simplify something to make it easier to understand
Comment on	Give your opinion on the topic
Compare	Identify the similarities and differences between things, possibly concluding which is better
Consider	Think carefully about a range of aspects with contrasting views
Conclude	Make a decision about the data
Contrast	Look for the differences between things the bigger the better
Criticise/ critically evaluate	Give a judgment about the good and bad points of the subject. Question the legitimacy and find limitations and things that could be changed.
Deduce	Draw a conclusion based on the facts
Define	Give a precise meaning for a topic. State exactly what something is and exclude other possibilities
Demonstrate	Give proof of why you think your statement is correct
Describe	Write about the details of the topic but doesn't usually involve coming to a conclusion
Determine	Find the answer
Discuss	Give several opinions on the same topic from different points of view giving reasons for and against
Evaluate	Examine the evidence both positive and negative and come to a conclusion
Examine	Give details about the topic and describe it in a clear way. Give causes for what has been observed
Explain	Give reasons for
Evidence (give)	Give references to back up your points
Identify	Separate and describe parts of a topic
Illustrate	Give several examples, diagrams or statistics to support your argument
Interpret	Evaluate in information with examples and bring it to a conclusion
Justify	Give reasons why something is as you claim

Opinion develop or give your	Decide what you think about the topic
Outline	Similar to summarise – briefly give the main points
Prove	Make a series of logical arguments leading to an end point
Refer / reference	Quote a source for the information
Relate	Emphasise connections between things
Review	Make a summary from a range of sources not just one
Show	Prove the point using balanced arguments
State	Either give in a clear understandable form or could be to quote something without rewording it eg state Newton's 2 nd law
Summarise/ summary	Give an overview of a topic – stating the main findings
Synthesise	Pull the facts together to create something new, integrate ideas into an overview
To what extent	In depth assessment of the evidence to present and argue about the nature of something
Trend - indentify	Look for directional changes eg getting bigger, older etc
Trace	Follow the change in something over time or space
Write	Not very helpful you'll have to look at any other information in the question to narrow down what they are looking for