

Planning Essays and Projects.



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Welcome

- Ensure mobile phones are off
- No eating in the classroom
- You may take notes



Guidelines for Planning

Step One:

- Ensure that you have comprehensive notes from your lectures
 - read and précis notes
 - annotated slides
 - ask your Laws lecturer if you are unsure about anything

Guidelines for Planning

Why is planning your essay beforehand crucial?

It is like the '*rehearsal*' before the main event.

- Gives an outline of the essay's answer/structure
 - your chosen sub-headings
 - whether you are answering the question
 - your (hopefully logical) argument
 - use of any sources

Most importantly...that you don't **forget** any crucial info. before the write-up and lose marks!

Guidelines for Planning

Planning an essay is like preparing a sandwich...

When you make a sandwich you need to plan first what will be in your sandwich. What type of bread you will use etc.



The sandwich = your essay (The key is to plan and use the right ingredients to answer the Question)

Guidelines for Planning

Examiners report that students fail examinations, not because of a lack of knowledge or ability, but because their essay loses the reader.

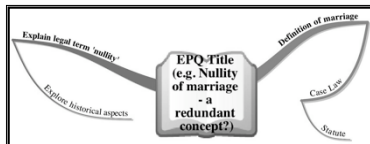
'...the meandering paper, one that wanders... from summaries of concepts to counter-arguments...without a clear plan of logical progression.'

(Sandel M., *Writing in Moral Reasoning*, Harvard University 2000)

Guidelines for Planning

How should I write-up my plan?

- You can write it up in prose or bullet-point form; or
- Create a mind-map...



You can do this by hand...but there is Tony Buzan mind-map software on the College computer network.

Guidelines for Planning

- Planning allows you to develop your ideas and the main points that will form your essay's answer
- Planning helps you develop an understanding for the subject area
- Once a plan has been written, writing the essay should be straightforward

Suggestions

- Contact your e-Mentor for some advice.
- Ask another Laws student for ideas.
- Ask or email your Laws lecturer if you have any queries about an essay question
- Read past essays in the essay competition for ideas:
http://www.peteriepson.com/law/essay_competition.htm

Thank you for listening