

## Answering Essay Questions on Exams: Explain the Importance

(oh, yeah... these are also helpful for professional and technical writing)



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One popular focus of essay questions is to ask students to identify the most important aspects of an idea and to explain why those are the most important.

**How to begin:** First, realize that importance depends on the specifics of the situation.

Second, decide the general situation that you will write about when answering the question. Then decide some specific situations you can use as examples to justify your choices about what is most important.

**Five sections:** First paragraph: Tell the reader what the idea is and what the general situation is that you will use to explain what is important. Try to put in a sentence that looks like this: “One can see the importance of \_, by looking at several situations in \_.”

Second, third, fourth paragraphs: Tell one important aspect of the idea and give an example from your general situation. Include sentences that start like this:

“For example, ...”

“When *someone* does *this*, they should...”

“*Someone* who does *this* will avoid/ ensure that ...”

Fifth paragraph: Write a conclusion. This may seem like you are repeating what you said, and that may be true, but use different words to make the point. Make it clear the paragraph is the conclusion:

“In conclusion/summary,....”

Remember: No pronouns, no misspellings, no “etc.”