

# Essay Competition Guidance Document

An essay needs an introduction, conclusion, and a main body consisting of individual paragraphs that fully elaborate on each point.

- An introductory paragraph should:
  - Identify the key words in the question and define them
  - Demonstrate an understanding of the question
  - Summarise your final argument clearly and anticipate the main points
  
- An effective conclusion paragraph should:
  - Summarise important aspects of your argument
  - Refer to the question to show that it has been answered
  - Include a conclusive, critical argument to end the essay.

## Referencing

This essay requires footnote referencing (in-text citation).

There are many online resources ([myBib](#), [Zotero](#)) that can reference for you, however, we strongly advise you attempt manual referencing.

When directly quoting from a source, use quotation marks and include a footnote reference. If indirectly quoting, make sure this is clear and include a footnote reference. Ensure you have used the correct format of referencing. An example is included below –

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<sup>1</sup>. Firstname Lastname, Title of Book (Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication), page number.

<sup>2</sup>. Antony Grafton, *The Footnote: A Curious History* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), 221.

## Tips and Tricks

- Take time to carefully analyse and understand the question to ensure your piece of work directly responds to the requirements.
  - Identify:
    - The subject matter/topic
    - The specific focus
    - The point of view expressed or being questioned
  - Use a range of sources to show the breadth of your argument
  
- Make sure you evaluate the evidence/sources/reading you use in detail
  - Why are certain arguments successful?
  - What evidence do they use?
  - What are the strengths and weaknesses to this argument, or challenges to this point of view?
  - What is your perspective on the topic?

- Don't forget to be creative. In as much as this is an academic piece of work, we want to hear your voice and get a good understanding of your point of view.

## **Plagiarism**

Copying and plagiarism is strongly discouraged, and you will be disqualified if found out. If using a source or text, make sure you to reference correctly and highlight their importance to your argument.