

## TEN TOP TIPS FOR WRITING A TWO-SIDED ESSAY

Tip	Explanation	Example
<b>1. Set the context</b>	The best way to begin an essay is to set the general context. Persuade your reader that what you are writing about is relevant to today's world.	<i>Nowadays, more and more young people are going to university and this trend is set to continue.</i>
<b>2. Don't repeat the words of the question</b>	It's always a bad idea to repeat the words of the question. Try to rephrase them, or don't refer to them at all (just stick to the topic – this shows that you have read the question).	<i>Some people argue that prisons should reform prisoners whilst others argue their main purpose is revenge. [This essay will examine why "some people say prison is for retribution whilst others say it's for reform".]</i>
<b>3. Say you'll talk about both sides of the argument</b>	It's important not to prejudice your reader about what he/she will read. Tell them you will explain both points of view.	<i>In this essay, I will discuss both points of view before coming to a conclusion</i>
<b>4. Use PEE</b>	Essays need a tight structure, and PEE is a good way to achieve this: <b>Point</b> – what's my main argument (write this as a topic sentence) <b>Evidence</b> – what examples can I think of to support my point? <b>Explanation</b> – So what?	<i>Prisoners should be treated humanely because they are human beings. By giving them work projects and small responsibilities we will enable them to integrate back into society upon their release.</i>
<b>5. Be specific</b>	Give <i>specific</i> examples. Don't just say "smoking is dangerous".	<i>The dangers of smoking include lung disease, heart problems and bad oral health.</i>
<b>6. Get the connectors right</b>	Formal connectors such as "moreover" and "in conclusion" are appropriate in an essay. Connectors such as "however" and "nevertheless" show contrast. But don't use too many. Two or three is sufficient.	<i>Moreover, students nowadays lack the social skills of their predecessors. However, there are some objections we could raise to this</i>
<b>7. Use conditionals</b>	Use conditionals to show the consequences of actions / behaviour.	<i>If students can't wean themselves off video games, they will not get the necessary training in socialization.</i>
<b>8. Evaluate the opposite point of view</b>	Try to give equal weight to both sides of the argument.	<i>The above arguments notwithstanding, there are many reasons to doubt the benefits of social media.</i>
<b>9. Keep it formal</b>	Use formal vocabulary and avoid colloquialisms and slang.	<i>Doctors should never <b>divulge</b> their patients' information.</i>
<b>10. Give your opinion in the conclusion</b>	In the conclusion, it's appropriate to summarise your argument, but there's no need to repeat it word for word. Then give your own opinion about the issue.	<i>This essay has examined both sides of the argument, and I believe that...</i>