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**Level : L3**

**Module :CWP**

**LECTURE 1: ANSWERING ESSAY QUESTIONS WITH: ‘ANALYZE’ OR ‘DISCUSS’**

Words like ‘explain’, ‘evaluate’ or ‘analyze’ and others provide a useful indication of how the essay should be structured. If students misinterpret the question words in the exam instruction, the essay writing could be completely irrelevant and score poorly. Question words help identify the kind of response the essay requires.

* **Analyze**: Essay questions that ask to ‘analyze’ a particular topic require the student to break the essay topic down into its essential parts. To do so, we need to bring important evidence to look in depth at the arguments for and against, as well as how these parts should interlink. We should not simply give a narration on the key debates in the literature, we should make our position known and tie it to the literature offered.
* **Discuss**: In the case of ‘Discuss’ question words, an in-depth answer that considers all aspects of the debate concerning a research topic is required. You must demonstrate reasoning skills with this type of question, by using evidence to make a case for or against a research topic/**argument**. A detailed discussion of the topic should entail much relevant information about the different perspectives put forward by other scholars. Student’s thoughts on the subject based on the general debates in the literature should be referred to, and clearly stating **his/her position** about the topic of the essay.

**TUTORIAL (TD) 1**

**Topic1: Analyze the causes that led to the American Revolution.**

**1)List the different causes, then write the introduction.**

Sample introduction:

The American Revolution began in 1775 as an open conflict between the United Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain. The causes of the American Revolution include a number of issues that divided the colonies from England over the course of many years. Tension rose over taxes levied by a Parliament that lacked colonial representation, increased British military presence in the colonies, restrictions on some colonial governments, and limits on westward expansion after the French and Indian War. These specific issues led to a growing belief among the colonists that their rights as Englishmen were being violated, and raised their desire to fight for their independence.

**2) Accordingly write the body then the concluding paragraph**

**Topic 2: Discuss the view that critical thinking is more effective than learning by heart in promoting students’ achievements.**

**1) Think of the arguments which favour critical thinking as opposed to those which disfavour rote learning**

**2) Write an introduction accordingly.**

Sample introduction:

Many people believe that rote learning is important in university education while others encourage critical thinking in this context. In fact, although rote learning is important for passing exams in some subjects, the development of critical thinking skills is far more crucial in succeeding overall within the tertiary education environment. Whereas rote learning involves memorising information, the central aspect of critical thinking is to ask questions and to think independently. Critical thinking carries across to all aspects of learning, including participating actively in the classroom, selecting and reading source material carefully, and constructing logical arguments in written work. This essay focuses on the importance of critical thinking over memorizing in university education.

**3) Accordingly write the body, then the conclusion**

Sample conclusion:

In conclusion, although rote learning is necessary in some situations, it is far more important to develop critical thinking skills in order to succeed at university level. The skills involved in thinking critically and analytically can assist students to construct sound arguments and to assess their reading material in terms of the validity of its content. Whereas memorising information has limited value in terms of university education, critical thinking is one of the most crucial aspects of University study.