

VISUAL ARTS ESSAY WRITING

Presented by:

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For Campbelltown Arts Centre



First things first

- Look after yourself- practice good sleep hygiene, eat well, exercise.
- Your teacher is your most powerful resource.
- You are a resource for your peers, and they for you. Support and help each other grow.
- Visit galleries – engage with art beyond classroom
- Critical Writing checklist (or ALARM etc) – link included

Before beginning any written question have you:

1.	Highlighted/defined key words?
2.	Determined the aspect of syllabus the question refers to (F, CF,P)
3.	Rewritten the question in your own words?
4.	Decided your overall response to the question?
5.	Is your response logical?
6.	Is it complex?
7.	Does it reflect a highly developed understanding of the Visual Arts?
8.	Are you using formal, subject specific, language and appropriate grammar?
9.	Are you avoiding unnecessary generalisations?

Outline your essay and include: thesis statement, point of each paragraph, artists names and their artworks

In your introduction have you:

1.	Stated your thesis/ introduced your argument?
2.	Clearly referred back to the question (without restating it)
3.	Given the marker a 'road map' to your essay including artists and their works that expand on your response to the question?
4.	Specifically stated which aspect of the syllabus the question refers to.
5.	Acknowledged that other points of view are possible, even if they are not discussed in detail? The essay questions are generally broad. Acknowledge this initially and then narrow your focus.

How will you structure your essay?

Logically- three paragraphs considering premodern, modern and post modern artists is generally a good way to go with most questions.

Compare questions you may want to branch out and look at 2 artists and 2 works from each if so the first paragraph is the first artist and their first work, next the same artist and their second work. Paragraph three would be the second artist and their first work, finishing the body with the second artist and their second work.

Alternatively you can keep to the three paragraph essay looking at three different artists.

In each paragraph have you:

6.	Stated your broader topic sentence?
7.	Comprehensively, and specifically, explained the content?
8.	Interpreted the content in relation to the question?
9.	Used the Statement Technique Effect structure?
10.	Ensured each sentence contributes to your answer to the question?
11.	Included a quote and discussed its relevance?
12.	Linked to the next paragraph?
13.	Addressed any information or quotations used in the question?

Referring to your artworks have you:

14.	Correctly stated the artists name, date of the work and its title?
15.	Described them in such a way that contributes to your answer to the question?
16.	Explained the significance of the work in relation to the question?

In your conclusion have you:

17.	Stated how you have answered the question?
18.	Reviewed how your statement is supported by your chosen artists and their artworks?
19.	Responded to any quotations on information given in the question.
20.	DO NOT Introduce new information!

Before you're finished have you reread your work double checking..

21	It makes sense?
22	You have answered the question in each part of the essay?
23	The artist/movement/artwork are spelt correctly?
24	You have used sophisticated, appropriate, subject specific language?
25	You have correctly referenced all sources?

How long should my essay be? This does not have an easy answer, much how should I walk in with a prepared essay?

If you write less than six pages, it's not likely you will address all the question is asking.

You see in the video, as a marker, I have suggested 8 pages should provide space to answer the question while ensuring your thesis doesn't get lost in less valuable information.

In the video Nishta talks about writing 15 pages, and I agree with her desire to reflect all that she has learnt; your HSC is the chance for you to show off all you know! It's not the time to be shy.

In reflection though, I would also add that the exam is a balance of the time spent between the two sections.

While you may be focused on responding to the essay question and including amazing information, don't sacrifice your time on section one to write an essay that has length over substance... and if you can get full marks on the essay with less pages, your time might be better spent in section one.

Information on the ALARM scaffold can be found here: <https://www.virtuallibrary.info/alarm.html>

Link to the HSC Visual Arts Exam workbook from NESAs: <https://shop.nesa.nsw.edu.au/en/bostes/teaching/exam-workbooks/2017-hsc-visual-arts-exam-workbook-p9781743011812>