**Essay structure reminders**

As with any essay, you **must keep moving from the general to the particular and back again**. E.g. you must frame your essay with your focus question and topic sentences, which convey ideas, and back these ideas up with particular explanations, evidence and evaluations.

**All elements of your essay need to relate in some way to a. task requirements b. your focus question.**

1. All body paragraphs begin with **a topic sentence** which relates to the focus question you have established in your introduction. This applies even to paragraphs on theory. E.g.

“**Ecofeminism** specifically seeks to defy **anthropocentric** attitudes and argues that a **relationship exists between oppression of women and the domination of nature.**”

Note how this moves from **theory** to **specific term** within the theory to **a direct reference to the student’s focus question**. Also note that each time you reiterate your focus question, you can freshen up the vocabulary use. You don’t need to use exactly the same words each time.

2. All elements of each paragraph need to relate to your topic sentence. Your topic sentence introduces the point you want to make; it is the form of an idea. **You should not begin a paragraph with information or explanation**. The topic sentence must not only contain an idea; it must also, explicitly or implicitly, relate to your focus question.

3. The theory paragraph should contain:

* An **idea** in the form of a topic sentence which introduces the theory or aspect of theory and relates to your focus and text. (**Point**) e.g. *“The* ***concepts*** *of oppression and man’s spiritual relationships with nature, which are both clearly constructed in “****The Lord of the Rings”,*** *are also* ***central concerns for deep ecologists****”. OR* ***Ecocriticism*** *applies itself readily to* ***a work*** *in which the* ***landscape is a dominant character****.*
* **Expansion of the idea** in the topic sentence (**Expand**). This is where information and explanation might come in. This may be several sentences long.
* Support for the idea in the topic sentence (**Evidence**) in the form of quotes and references to the detail of theory and related concepts. Only provide information on theory that relates to your focus; do not repeat the same ideas in different words.
* **Evaluation** of theory, weighing up its usefulness, strengths and weaknesses in comparison to other theories.
* Conclusion in the form of a linking sentence (**Link)** which sums up and refers to idea in following paragraph. (Of course, you need to avoid saying exactly the same thing in the linking sentence and the following topic sentence! You will need to vary your vocabulary.)

4. An analytical paragraph should contain:

* An idea in the form of a topic sentence which mentions the theory, the novel and relates to your focus question. E.g. *The application of* ***ecofeminist*** *theoretical approaches reveal that* ***Tolkien*** *invites the reader to consider* ***the consequences of exploiting the earth’s natural resources****.*
* **Expansion of the idea** in the topic sentence (**Expand**).
* Support for the idea in the topic sentence (**Evidence**) in the form of quotes and references to the detail of the novel. Apply the theoretical approach to the text.
* **Evaluation** of theory, weighing up how effective these theoretical approaches have been in exploring and producing the close reading/answering your focus question. What is revealed of character? What ideology is uncovered?
* Conclusion in the form of a linking sentence (**Link)** which sums up and refers to idea in following paragraph.

You may, of course, integrate theory and application of theory in the same paragraph but the same paragraphing principles apply.

Keep moving forward in your answer, supporting one new idea after the other! Do not keep repeating the same ideas; vary vocabulary.