

## Help!

### How do I help my child write an essay?

Encourage your child to **plan** before they start their work. There are all sorts of methods of doing this but a good place to start if they are stuck is to **brainstorm** everything they know about the topic. They need to start to **organise their ideas** in order of importance and relevance – highlighter pens are useful here!

Organise these ideas into possible chunks that will then become **paragraphs**. Your son or daughter then needs to decide on a logical **order** for these paragraphs and include **connectives** to guide their reader through their writing.

**What are connectives?** Connectives '**signpost**' almost any kind of essay or comprehension answers. Examples of these words or phrases are 'For instance', 'in the case of', 'nevertheless'.

Find any quotes or **evidence** from the source material they are using to back up ideas.

**Every essay needs an introduction, paragraphs and a conclusion.**

The **introduction** should give a brief overview of what the essay is going to be about.

What is a **PEE paragraph**?

When students are writing essays in English we want them to structure their paragraphs by making a:

**Point** - illustrating or supporting the point with  
**Evidence** (a quote from the text or subject they are writing about) and then  
**Explaining** the point they are making and the quote they have used.

We also refer to **PEEL** paragraphs adding:

**Link** to author's purpose and/or historical context.

When writing an essay in History, use **PEEB**

**Point**  
**Evidence**  
**Explanation**  
**Balance**

By always using this structure, students learn to organise their ideas carefully.

The **conclusion** should summarise the main points the essay has covered and this is also an opportunity for the writer to give their own point of view about the subject.