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BMPE4005 Physical Education & Aquatic Activities

Writing Support

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Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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Assignment 1 - Essay question

"If physical educators do not make a worthwhile contribution to general education, they would not be worthy of the title of teacher"
(Whitehead, 2000, p.25)

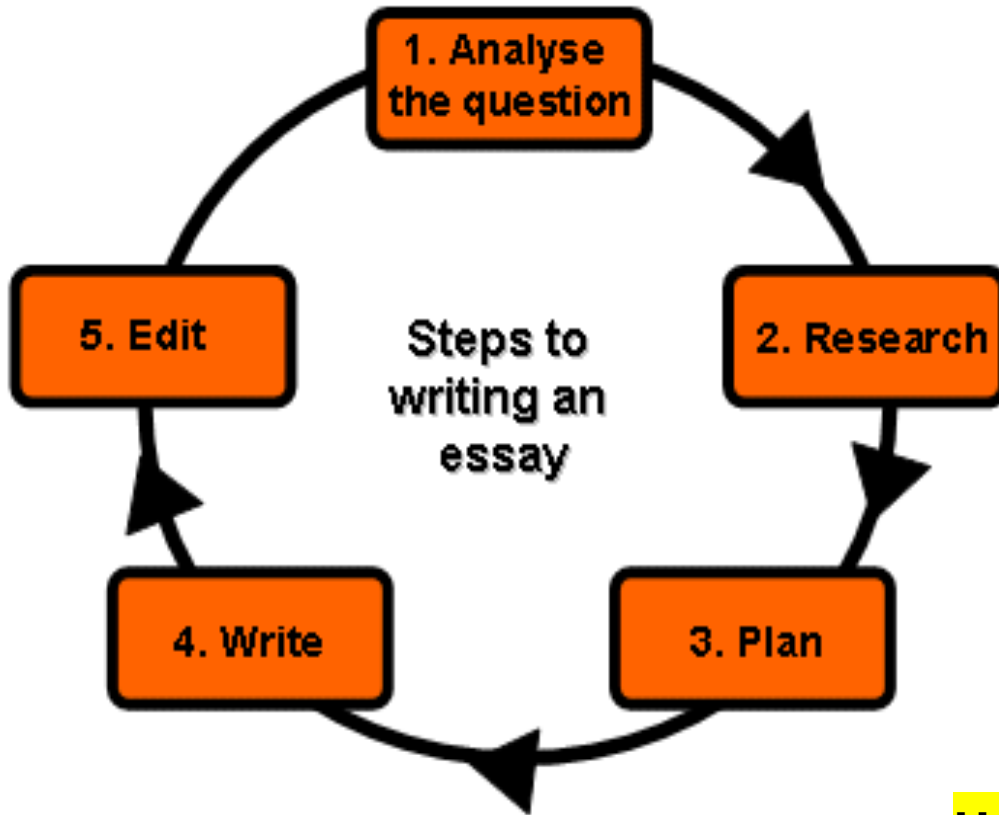
In light of the quote above and drawing on relevant academic literature, produce a 1500 words essay, in which you identify and justify what you consider to be the most important aims for Physical Education in the 21st century.

Assignment 1 - Essay question

In answering this question, you should:

- Demonstrate understanding of the purpose of PE;
- Discuss issues related to the nature of equality, equity and inclusion and different health perspectives;
- Explain how the elements above are then reflected (and their consequences) within policy, curriculum and teachers' practice.

Steps to write an Essay



Ensure that
you have a
**logical, well
organised
and informed
response to
the question.**

How will you address the quote?

Why do we ask you to write essays?

- Essay writing is not simply for assessment. **Good quality essays are not written overnight!**
- First, the subjects that you remember best are usually the subjects you have written essays on.
- Second, essay writing will develop your writing style.
- Being able to write **clearly** and **persuasively** is a valuable skill.
- You will develop your powers of self-expression.

Key writing principles (1)

Warburton (2006) suggests three key principles of good essay writing:

1. **Answer the question** – it sounds obvious but one of the worst mistakes you can make is failing to answer the question set.
2. **Make a case** – the marker should be completely clear about your response to the question. For example:

Introduction - Indicative statement

Please see **an example** in the next slide

Don't steal it, don't be cheeky!

Yours will be much better 😊

Introduction - Indicative statement

Clearly
outline the
purpose of
the essay

The purpose of this essay is to outline the nature of inclusion in Physical Education (PE) and Youth Sport (YS) and to demonstrate how this is reflected in policy, curriculum and teachers' practice. In this essay, I will begin with a brief explanation of

Answer the
question by
taking a
clear
position

how inclusion is interpreted in the context of PE and YS and why this is important to be considered from a social justice perspective. Next, I will argue that in recent decades

there has been a greater emphasis on the need to repurpose PE and show that a curriculum focused on the language of 'difference' might not always promote positive sporting experience in children and young people. Finally, I will argue that

Signpost
your
argument

teachers' actions play a big role in children's and young people's dispositions towards sport for lifelong physical activity. Therefore, professional educators acknowledge a moral duty to do what is 'right' for the individual and society. This can be achieved by giving pupils a voice whilst making decisions about their learning with them.

Persuading the reader

- You must persuade your audience of the strength of your position.
- To do this well you need to defend your claims and provide reasons to support your case.
- You should use academic literature (textbooks and journal articles) to help you.
- You can also use examples to support your claims. Please see the following example about the use of Performance Enhancing Drugs in sport:

This is the claim that you need to defend.

→ One argument is that the increased use of PED in high performance sport is partly the result of sports becoming professional and more commercialized. Elite and high

performance sports help to serve large-scale political interests and are now extremely

financially lucrative. For example, Waddington and Smith (2009) note that corporate sponsorship in sport is a billion dollar industry.

This is a reason to support your claim.

← Now you need to draw on the literature and some examples for evidence.

* In your essay you might need to offer more than one reason and you would have to explain in more detail!

Using quotations

- You need to 'weave' the literature into your paragraphs.
- You can paraphrase and you can use quotations.
- You can also use examples to illustrate key points and to show your understanding.
- See the next slide for an example:

Recent scientific and technological advancements have had a significant impact on the competitiveness of elite sport. This is because technology can significantly improve performance in sports. As Dimeo (2014) points out, sports such as cycling have

→ Weave quotations into your answer. Make sure that you reference quotations properly (with page numbers).

“benefited from a highly rationalized, scientific approach in which they [athletes] are micro-managed, advised by experts, placed in a highly competitive environment and supported by new research on technology, training and nutrition” (p.963). One clear illustration of the impact of technology on cycling is the reduction on aerodynamic drag, which increases speed.

← You can also use examples/illustrations.

↓
The quote was weaved into the authors words and not simply ‘dumped’ into the narrative.

Unsurprisingly, as the rewards have increased, the emphasis on winning has increased (Waddington and Smith 2009). This has led to what Coakley and Hughes (1992) refer to as the sports ethic, which encourages top performance athletes to embrace the idea that “second place doesn’t count” (Waddington and Smith 2009, p.72).

* Here I have paraphrased and used a quotation. Notice the difference in referencing!

Key writing principles (2)

3. You need to make sure that there's a clear thread throughout the essay and that you don't attempt to 'pad out' your answer with stray facts, unnecessary descriptions or irrelevant information.
4. Your indicative statement provides the structure for the rest of your essay. You should follow it carefully and ensure that each of the key points follows logically.

Writing style and presentation

- Good answers will provide a “well-argued case for a conclusion that relates directly to the question asked” (Warburton 2006, p.89).
- The essay should have a clear structure which includes an **introduction, main section and conclusion**.
- The **introduction** should provide a brief background to the topic and indicate the conclusion that you are going to defend.
- The **main body** of the essay should consist of something like three or four extended paragraphs.

Writing style and presentation

- Each paragraph should help you build your case in response to the question set. Develop each argument one at a time.
- Don't jump around from one point to the next.
- Developing your arguments means "considering what can be said against it, and then responding to these imagined criticisms" (Warburton 2006, p.50).

Writing style and presentation

- The **conclusion** must follow logically from the rest of your essay.
- Don't leave the markers guessing or expect them to "make their own minds up".
- Your conclusion should summarise the essay, so there shouldn't be any new arguments or evidence presented in this section.

Writing style and presentation

- Spend time checking your punctuation and spelling (make sure that each sentence makes sense).
- Read your work out loud* to pick up on long and complicated sentences – **I can't stress enough how important and helpful this is!!!**

*You can also use the Immersive Reader features to have your work read out loud to you, which is also helpful.

What are the markers usually looking for?

- Good answers will enable the reader to understand the position you have defended and how/why you arrived at that conclusion.
- Good answers will discuss the central concepts/ideas presented in the relevant Physical Education literature.
- Good answers will be drawing on evidence from the literature to support any claims/arguments.
- Excellent answers will be considering counterarguments.
- Excellent answers will also point to some of the implications of your position on the question.

What are the markers usually looking for?

- Good answers will include a conclusion which provides a condensed version of the essay's central argument.
- Good answers will have examples that illustrate and support the argument/position.
- Good answers will be well organised and the writing style will be clear and fluent.
- Good essays will be referenced appropriately and will show depth of individual reading and investigation.
- Good essays will demonstrate understanding through academic vocabulary.

Reference list

Warburton, N. (2006). The Basics of Essay Writing. London: Routledge