

Essay writing instructions for ECON7020

Writing an essay can be a challenging but exciting job for everyone. Here are some useful tips for you to write a good essay for this course.

- **Present a coherent argument**

A weak argument leads to a weak essay so make your argument concrete. In your introduction, state what you are going to do (and what you are NOT going to do if necessary). In your conclusion and/or summary, re-state what you have done. The body of the essay should reflect this.

- **Have a clear structure**

Structure your essay properly in different paragraphs. One useful way of writing is that in each paragraph, the first sentence introduces what will be done and the last sentence summarizes it. By doing so, you keep your arguments tight and central around your focus. When you finish a paragraph, re-read it and ask yourself if it makes sense in the context of your argument. Always focus on one issue at a time, finish your discussion on that issue first before moving to the next one.

- **Check even every little thing**

Please make sure that things such as spell-checking, reading your final drafts, and maintaining a consistent referencing system are done in properly manner. All these little things could cost you a fair few marks.

Although I am not expecting a grammatically perfect essay, please ensure your sentences make sense as otherwise I may not understand what you are writing. Try to avoid direct translation from your mother tongue into English. Form your ideas in English and keep the words simple as no extra marks will be given for sophisticated words.

- **Provide your opinion within reason**

Simply giving your opinion without any evidence of research will not yield you good marks so please back your arguments up with evidence of research and analysis. You are free to express your own opinion. Your marks are unaffected no matter whether I agree with your opinion or not.