



# Saor-Ollscoil na hÉireann

The Free University of Ireland

## **Assessment of Essays:**

The title of the essay should be placed on the top of the first page. This is important for your own reference and for whoever is reading it.

All essays should have a beginning, a middle, and an end. These in turn, should be divided into appropriate paragraphs. Each of these parts (beginning, middle and end) has its own particular function.

The beginning should be used to state what you intend to do and to outline your arguments. You can use the title of the essay here as a form of question, or you can give your own definition of the title. You can also say what area you are not going to cover and why. This first section is very important as some studies have shown that the standard of the first section, and even the first paragraph, determines the mark awarded to an essay. What you are aiming for here is an opening or introduction to your essay, which is easy to read, and makes sense.

The middle of the essay is the main part of the essay. Here, you raise your arguments and counter-arguments, and discuss the subject or question in more detail. The discussion must be supported by references to other works. These might be books, journals, newspaper articles etc.

The end of your essay should be a summing-up of what you have already said. It should reassess your opening statement or the title of the essay in light of the discussion in the middle section. A strong conclusion is as important as a good opening

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