

Essay Writing with MindGenius

MindGenius helps students to prepare and create well structured essays by allowing them to focus on their ideas and content without having to worry about the order of their ideas, or the formatting of the document.

Before you start any activity with MindGenius, view the MindGenius “getting started” video to learn about the basic features you will need to get going, how the MindGenius approach will help you to explore the subject you are looking at in more detail, and to achieve more successful outcomes.

Understanding your brief

The key to getting good marks is to fully understand what is asked of you by dissecting and fully exploring your essay question then going on to organise thoughts, materials and intentions, and gathering the relevant information required to write a comprehensive essay.

The MindGenius **Essay Topic template** provides structure and has an associated question set with it to help you gain a rounded view on your brief.

Things to consider:

- What are you writing about?
- What are your objectives?
- When does your essay need to be completed by?
- How have you analysed your question?
- What are your key points?
- What has made you think this way?
- Where is the evidence coming from? Is it relevant and reliable?
- Where does it back up your argument?
- How will you reach your conclusion?
- How will you present your findings?

Preparing your essay

Use MindGenius to consolidate information from different sources and to reduce the amount of information you need to work with. Add key ideas to the MindGenius map, or add html links to websites, to access research information quickly and easily later. Use **Type and Return** to add ideas and information to your map.

MindGenius allows you to prepare your essay far more quickly by allowing you to focus initially on your content without getting caught up with format at too early a stage. There are also **templates and questions** within MindGenius to help you prepare a rounded view of your content and you should ask yourselves questions to get a rounded view on your content. Useful questioning to consider is the 5 W's and H technique: who, what, where, when, why, how. This will help you start to build up a detailed picture of relevant information to include in your essay.

If you do this, you can then look at each section in isolation, using the **Map Explorer** feature, which will enable you to focus in and look at each section in detail, ensuring you cover everything you need to. The Map Explorer also allows you to navigate as your ideas continue to flow and your map gets larger.

Organising your ideas and developing structure

Once you have added your main content, you can start to visually restructure your map, thereby developing structure and flow in your essay. Using **Drag and Drop**, you can simply pull branches to where they need to

go, and make them “children” of other branches. This means they become secondary points to the branch you add it next to. This helps you to develop a framework for your essay which you can expand and add further content to once you have decided what you need to do, include and how you are going to present the information.

Adding further content

The structure of the map helps you to keep focused as you add more and more content. You can add more detailed content to your report, by adding it to the **Notes** section. The note will be attached to a branch and a visual indicator will appear on the branch.

Creating your text document

After you have prepared the outline of your essay, organised your ideas, added structure, and reviewed the document for gaps in your knowledge, you can click **export to MS Word** to prepare a MS Word document.

What next?

MindGenius will allow you to focus on your content before you need to think about the way your essay looks, and restructuring your essay will be easier and more natural. This will help you to create an essay that flows properly and with more focused content.

Get started with your essay by selecting an essay template, or a blank map.