

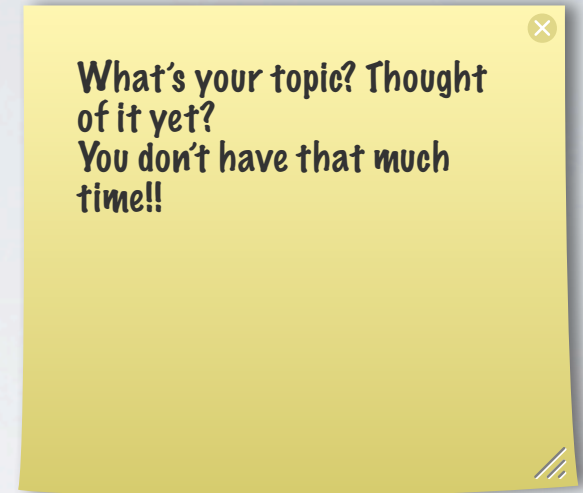
THE CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN UNION

Essay Writing
24 November 2011

OUTLINE

- Subject
what
- Research
how
- Writing (x5)
the hard part
- Proofing
the best part
- References
the interesting part
- Wrap up
the end part

SUBJECT - WHAT



- What am I writing about?
- Why am I writing about it?
- WHAT'S MY RESEARCH QUESTION?!
 - In every question, there are a million others. Focus on your subject.

RESEARCH - HOW

- Desk research
- Secondary / Primary resources
 - Where do I find resources?
 - How many? [6/7 main texts MINIMUM]
- Selection of resources
 - Be aware of provenance



The Digital Library!
Google Scholar

WRITING I

- EVERY academic text should have a similar structure:
 - Introduction
 - Body
 - Conclusions

WRITING II - INTRODUCTION

- Your introduction must:
 - outline the problem, and
 - explain what you are going to do

WRITING III - BODY

- This 'doing' part can be split into three:
 - outline current understanding and context (theoretical or historical framework)
 - discuss your issue / case / example
 - use your case to critique or support theory, introduce your own opinion.
- (Social) Science is objective; humans are not.

WRITING IV - CONCLUSIONS

- Tell them what you did
- Conclusions are a summary, and **not** a place for new ideas.

WRITING V

- Citing texts
 - Be aware of provenance
- Referencing
 - Standardise. Use the style indicated in the *scriptiereglement* **and stick to it.**
- Spell-checkers exist for a purpose.

PROOFING

- Read, read [, and read] again (not joking!)
- Is your argument coherent?
- 'First / last sentence' trick
- Do you leave it until the end to answer the question? Please no!
- Bibliography...

RESOURCES

- *Google Scholar*. Available at <<http://scholar.google.com/>>, last accessed 04 November 2011.
- *UvA Digital Library*. Available at <<http://digitaal.uba.uva.nl>>, last accessed 23 November 2011.
- JSTOR, Sciencedirect, Ingentaconnect

WRAP UP

- Subject

choose carefully

- Research

understand and use sources well

- Writing

answer question, structure, citing

- Proofing

read, read, and read again