

Essay Writing, The Process

In English-speaking universities, the knowledge you learn will be judged by the quality of your essays. **You will have to write essays.**

This self study assumes you have had no experience of essay writing so it starts at a very basic level as described below. Even if you think you are good at essay writing, **do at least read the samples.**

Step	First School	Middle School	University
1	Brainstorm: note down 7 or 8 words you know about the title – 1 minute	Think: think of all you know about the topic, ALSO what you want to know about it? What does your teacher want to know? Note your thoughts on paper so you don't forget them. Maybe start in class three days to finish at home.	Reading research Assignment: Maybe 6 to 8 weeks to completion – 1 or 2 lectures; read journal articles; considering topic question repeatedly; seminars with student group; read several books from reading list; reading round the subject with advice from librarian; tutorial sessions with lecturer; reviewing notes; adding thoughts; discussions with class mates; and more. Maybe 6 to 8 weeks to completion
2	Organise: put the ideas above into a sensible order to write about – 1 minute	Organise: arrange your ideas into sequence and group the ideas which seem similar together. Think about the groups of ideas and decide the sequence for the groups. Thinking backwards and forwards - steps 2 & 3 start to overlap	Organise: this may be repeated or revised as you gather data; as you learn more you will probably see new links, causes, effects, descriptions; you may make big changes or small; you are building a skeleton but you wont know what it looks like until you have all the legs wings and head; is it a fish or a bird
3	Rough Draft: write the essay following the sequence you organized above 15 – 18 minutes	Rough Draft: write the essay following the sequence you organized above. Try to link a group (big idea - paragraph) to another by mentioning it in two or more paragraphs	Rough Draft: you can make sentences and paragraphs as you are organising; even groups of paragraphs “before you know what it looks like for certain”
4	Proof Read: read your essay and <u>correct</u> any mistakes, spelling grammar and order	Proof Read: read your essay and <u>correct</u> any mistakes, spelling grammar and that the paragraphs are in the correct order. You may want to move an idea into another paragraph.	Proof Read: read your essay and <u>correct</u> any mistakes, spelling grammar and check that the paragraphs are in the correct order. Make sure nothing has been forgotten Allow one week.
5	Copy it: write it again so that it is your best work – what you want to give your teacher	Copy it: write it again so that it is your best work – what you want to give your teacher and proof read it again. Even if you type it.	Copy it: write it again – Even if you typed it. Have you referenced what you need to; is it formatted correctly? Allow one week.

This table is summarised from First School and middle School writing courses just to show the continuity.

SAMPLES Critique and assessment at the end

First School

John 4/7/2002

My Bicycle

Brain Storm

18 inch wheels Dad Birthday

Blue seat black Ride feet
Bits name Pedalss

Organise

18 inch wheels Birthday Ride
Blue Dad Bits name feet
black seat pedals

My bicycle has got 18' wheels and it is blue with a seat black I got it four my sixth birthday. My Dad told me the name of all the bits. It has wheels pedals chain and handlebars. My Dad walked behind me till I could ride it without putting my feet down.

Fig. A

John 4/7/2002

My Bicycle

My bicycle has got 18 inch wheels and it is blue with a black seat. I got it for my sixth birthday. My Dad told me the name of all the bits. It has wheels tyres pedals chain and handlebars. My Dad walked behind me until I could ride it without putting my feet down.

Fig. B

Middle School

Nak 5/11/2007

Transport - The Bicycle

When invented? 1 or 2 people or gods - grocer butcher (only 2 wheels) dunlop tyre/solid - noise chain - gears (?) men-ladies expensive (rich)

used in war carry on train work further away, trains racing factory made - world wide

China development of car - change to leisure - like canals: global warming pollution

motor - electric cost. weather upto 80 miles

dynamo lights

1817 german 1868 chain
1840 dunlop

Answer Questions - read more.

Fig. C

Planning

German invention 1817; no chain - big for rich; expensive

develop - chain gears speed metal factory made dunlop

social change - use for work further away racing

car - van change to leisure - less popular less used

China - popular - industrial for transport

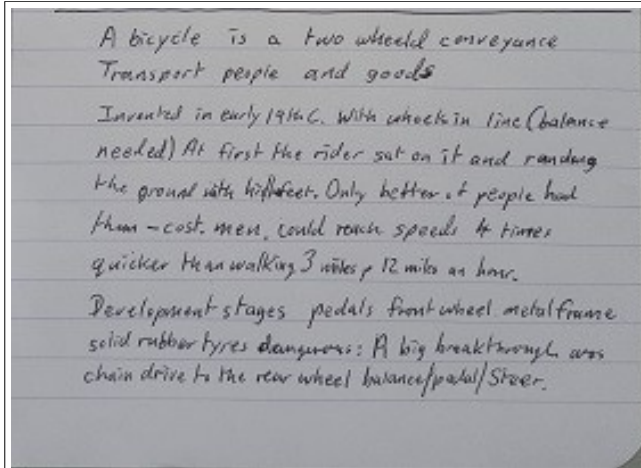
Global warming development cycle back to scooter

Corona virus - polar for exercise

- ① Invention quantity
- ② development social and technology - fall in part of favor
- ③ The future - still popular new context.

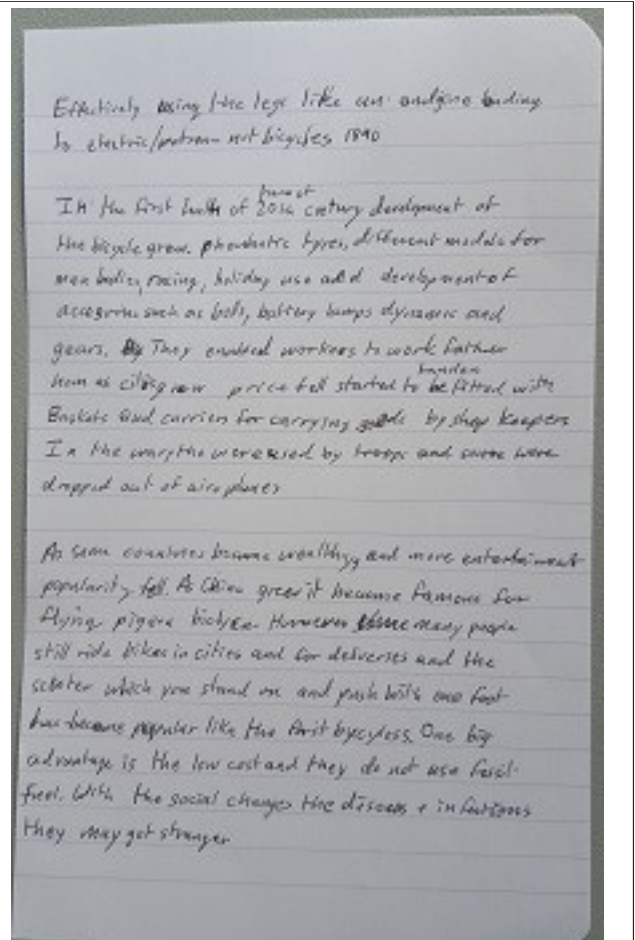
Fig. D

Middle School - cont.



A bicycle is a two wheeled conveyance
Transport people and goods
Invented in early 19th C. with wheels in line (balance needed) At first the rider sat on it and ran along the ground with his feet. Only better if people had them - cost. men could reach speeds 4 times quicker than walking 3 miles p 12 miles an hour.
Development stages pedals front wheel metal frame solid rubber tyres dangerous: A big breakthrough was chain drive to the rear wheel balance/pedal/steer.

Fig. E1



Effectively using 1-2 legs like an engine leading to electric/petrol - not bicycles 1890
In the first half of 20th century development of the bicycle grew pneumatic tyres, different models for men ladies, racing, holiday use and development of accessories such as bells, battery lamps dynamo and gears. They enabled workers to work farther from as cities grew price fell started to be fitted with baskets and carriers for carrying goods by shop keepers In the war they were used by troops and some were dropped out of air planes
As some countries became wealthy, and more entertainment popularity fell. As China grew it became famous for flying pigeon bicycles. However many people still ride bikes in cities and for deliveries and the scooter which you stand on and push with one foot has become popular like the first bicycles. One big advantage is the low cost and they do not use fossil fuel. With the social changes the diseases & infections they may get stronger.

Fig. E2

Fig E3

Word processed (typed) version of manuscript “organisation”.

Transport – The Bicycle

A bicycle is a two wheeled conveyance used to transport people or goods.

Invented in the early 19th C. with wheels in line (balance needed) At first the rider sat on it and ran along the ground with their feet. Only better if people had them – cost. Men. Could reach speeds 4 times quicker than walking 3 miles p 12 miles an hour.

Development stages pedals front wheel metal frame solid rubber tyres dangerous: A big breakthrough was chain drive to the rear wheel balance/ pedal/ steer Effectively using the legs like an engine leading to electric/petrol - not bicycles 1890

In the first half of 20th turn of century development of the bicycle grew. Pneumatic, tyres, different models for men ladies, racing holiday use and development of accessories such as bells, battery lamps dynamo and gears. They enabled workers to work farther from as cities grew price fell to tandem be fitted with baskets and carriers for carrying goods by shop keepers In the war they were used by troops and some were dropped out of air planes

As some countries became wealthy, and more entertainment popularity fell. As China grew it became famous for flying pigeon bicycles. However many people still ride bikes and for deliveries and the scooter which you stand on and push with one foot has become popular like the first bicycles. One big advantage is the low cost and they do not use fossil fuel. With the diseases and infections they may get stronger. (249 words)

Fig. E4

Word processed (typed) rough draft - from organisation.

Transport – The Bicycle

A bicycle is a two wheeled conveyance used to transport people or goods, invented in the early 19th C. It has two wheels in tandem, one behind the other so the rider or riders must balance it. At first the rider sat on it and ran along the ground with their feet and these were known as “Velocipedes”. Only better of people had them because they were expensive to buy and they had more leisure time. Riders, usually men could reach speeds 4 times quicker than walking being that is 12 miles per hour instead of 3.

The first significant developments were the use of a metal frame and the introduction of pedals on the front wheel the mechanical advantage necessary to increase the speed possible was by increasing the diameter of the front wheel the best known of these becoming known as the penny-farthing. The difficulty in pedalling a wheel which also turned in relationship to the sitting position on the frame lead to dangerous inherent instability but the the metal frame and solid rubber tyres and step through frames for ladies ensured the bicycle's popularity continued to grow. The next major breakthrough was chain drive to the rear wheel which effectively turned the riders legs into a “power unit” eliminating the problems of balance, pedalling and steering the front wheel and leading to a bicycle very like those we see today. This also lead to the fitting of petrol and electric motors in about 1890, which have their own names like motorbikes and mopeds and d are not considered as bicycles.

After the turn of the 20th century development of the bicycle and its popularity grew. Pneumatic tyres, different models for men ladies, bicycle racing, holiday use and development of accessories such as bells, battery lamps dynamos and gears turned them into a recreational item and made them a utilitarian essential. They enabled men to travel greater daily distances to their place of work. This increased mobility had a marked social effect. Cities continued to grow and the relative price bicycles fell leading to their use as delivery vehicles for bakers butchers and many other local traders. These machines were fitted with large carriers front and back and signs advertising the operators business. Nurses and policemen used them. During wartime they were widely used for troops. Bicycle troops could move faster carry more food and ammunition and required no fuel and little maintenance. Airborne troops dropped by parachute with their bicycles.

In the latter part of the twentieth century as countries became more prosperous, the popularity of the bicycle declined where people turned to the car for transport and entertainment. For the same reason at about the same time, the popularity grew. The Flying Pigeon in China was the ambition of most Chinese people and was not overtaken by the car until the turn of the 21st C. India and Indonesia were also big bicycle users. Though the popularity of two wheeled transport has now waned it is still a common sight. There are a few old tradesmen's bikes and deliveries of takeaway food have increased. Dew to the cost of parking and congestion, folding lightweight scooters which you stand on and push with one foot, reminiscent of the velocipede of the 1820s has become popular and can fit in a bag. The bicycle several big advantages. They are easy to store, very quiet and have low purchase and maintenance costs. With increased awareness of carbon emission and health issues the fact that they provide healthy exercise and do not use fossil fuel is highly significant. (597 words)

Note: These samples have NOT been proof read and corrected.

Critique and assessment of the student authors work samples above

First School

It is quite easy to see in Fig. A and Fig. B, that John has done four of the five steps. He has labelled the tasks of brainstorming and organising and the draft clearly follows the organising evidenced by the wheel size and colour. However, he **did not proof read and correct**. He has corrected some mistakes, but he added the word “tyres” and probably forgot the word “saddle” as he is talking about loosing his balance and “putting his feet down” on the ground. He would have been told “You must **CORRECT** your work or you will forget to change it.”

Middle School

It can be seen that Nok has started noting her own ideas including **things she needs to know** in Fig. C. Fig. E1 and Fig. E2 clearly represent a mixture of new ideas and how she will construct her essay – in other other words she has done her “research” and “planning” together, rather than separately although Fig. D is labelled “Planning”. However, Fig. E4 clearly follows Fig. D thus showing the value doing a plan before starting the final “rough draft.” Remember, this essay probably took only **one school period and homework over three evenings**. Fig. E4 still needs proof reading and correcting.

University

The big difference in the process of writing, at University, is that the gathering of ideas, thinking and planning is carried out over a longer time-period and subject to continuous rethinking. At undergraduate level, eight weeks is common. It may be much longer at higher levels. That is in addition to the style, criticality and objectivity and time management that will be demanded in and of your work.

A strong grasp of the basic writing process, the discipline of:- Brainstorm; Organise; Rough draft; proof read and correct; Fair copy will make writing for **any** purpose, including academic essays, much easier.