

Essay planning – additional advice – NOTE: this is what I would use with a real topic on the day of the SAC – you may want to apply it now, on the day of the SAC, or not at all! You might find you are prepared enough from following the other advice I have given you.

1. Choose your essay topic!
2. Read pages 117-120 of your textbook paying special attention to: analysing topic; how to write a contention; and identifying which of the three ‘topic types’ your chosen one is (you won’t have to read the info on the other two, unless you want to)
3. Write down a few different contentions to your essay topic (*the topic you receive on the day will be very similar to the broad topic you’ve already received!*)
4. For each contention, start planning what you will write in each paragraph, this should highlight whether your contention is appropriate – if you’re struggling to generate ideas from your contention to write about, then perhaps you need to tweak it – sometimes giving more complexity to your contention gives you more things to discuss in your body paragraphs.
5. Read the sample essay in your textbook (*pp.124-5*). Pay special attention to:
 - > the annotations in the side columns;
 - > the contention of the essay (in intro) and how each topic sentence links to it;
 - > the structure used (Block? Block with transition paragraph? Integrated?);
 - > TEEL (is it used effectively/consistently throughout?)
 - > the textual features that are discussed (especially for the play);
 - > the similarities in ideas;
 - > the differences in ideas.
6. Read through your notes from handouts and your Chapter Questions and workout which bits are relevant to your essay topic (these might be good things to record on the back of your cheat sheet).
7. Write a detailed PLAN – this will become one side of your **cheat sheet** (*please see the documents handed out today “Planning an Essay” and “Sample Plan” (same sheet) in order to know what a good plan looks like – yours should look like this*)

On the other side of your cheat sheet you should have other bits of evidence, other ideas about your themes/ideas and things that you feel you may need to remember, or things you may wish to include in your essay but haven’t found a spot for yet (in your plan).

Another good idea is to put a list of connectives and words and phrases to help show **similarity**: > *similarly, akin to this, not dissimilarly, another way, ...just as... so too, also, likewise, both,*

and a list of connectives, words and phrases to stress **difference**:

> *contrastingly, whereas, dissimilarly, unlike, however, but, whereas, in comparison, in contrast, juxtapositionally, in a different way, on the other hand*