

Introduction to Essay Writing and Argumentation

Course Overview

Essay Writing is an intensive programme designed for students who want to master one of the most versatile and powerful academic skills—one that underpins success in senior schooling, university, and professional life. More than just tips for putting words on a page, this course develops a complete framework for using essays as tools of persuasion, deep learning, and articulate expression. Students will learn to see essay writing not merely as an assessment format, but as a way of thinking critically, structuring ideas clearly, and communicating with lasting impact.

This comprehensive, advanced programme introduces the thinking, research, and communication skills that distinguish top-performing students. The course draws deliberate connections to senior school assessment types—from analytical essays in English to persuasive writing in the humanities—while providing a foundation for university writing, where clarity, argumentation, and research fluency are critical. Every student receives a bespoke Wise Minds course book containing clear explanations, worked examples, practice prompts, editing checklists, and structured exercises to build the confidence and adaptability to tackle any essay question with precision and authority.

- Build a conceptual foundation for persuasive writing and for exploring multiple perspectives
- Analyse literary techniques and integrate them into various writing styles
- Develop logical arguments using rhetorical appeals (logos, ethos, pathos)
- Master both prepared essays and timed in-class writing
- Research effectively, select credible sources, and manage references efficiently
- Refine drafting, editing, and proofreading techniques for content and technical accuracy

Course Delivery:

- Lecture-style classes
- Small group tutorials
- Workbooks and additional worksheets
- Practical writing and editing sessions

Target Students:

- Advanced Year 8 students
- Year 9 students
- Year 10 students
- Year 11 students
- Year 12 students

Key Course Information

Length: 24 Hours total (3 days)
Dates: Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th January
Times: 9am to 5pm daily
Location: Wise Minds Belconnen
Positions: 14 students (First in best dressed)
Price: $550 for the entire course (Including GST)
(Can be paid in two equal instalments)

Relevant School Subjects

- Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 English for the ACT, NSW or IB
- Fundamental for all senior English courses

Enrolment:

Please email the course director below expressing your interest and requesting enrolment in the course. Please note a deposit will be required to confirm your place.

Course Director: Rhys@WiseMindsTutoring.com.au (Ph: 0489089919)
Course Convenor: Lachlan@WiseMindsTutoring.com.au (Ph: 0489071014)

Topic List

Understanding the Purpose and Power of Essays

Essays as tools for persuasion, deep learning, and articulate expression
Developing transferable professional skills (analysis, communication, synthesis)
Essay writing as both storytelling and structured argumentation
Understanding audience and purpose—tailoring tone, register, and argument style
Different essay types (persuasive, analytical, literary analysis) and their shared core elements

Research and Preparation

Prewriting strategies: brain dumps, identifying knowledge gaps, and question generation
Source selection: primary vs. secondary, validity checks, epistemological foundations
Research efficiency: using academic databases, search operators, and citation tools
Reading for meaning and retention: primers, deep reading, note-taking, concept mapping

The Architecture of Persuasion

Writing from both sides of a debate to develop balanced, whole-topic mastery
Breaking complex topics into sub-questions to build argument structure
Crafting and refining thesis statements—before and after writing
Logic and structure: predicates, assumptions, and building to conclusions
Using evidence strategically to create coherent arguments
Rhetorical appeals (logos, ethos, pathos) and deliberate use of style
Anticipating counterarguments and crafting effective rebuttals

From Outline to Final Draft

Essay architecture: introductions, body paragraphs, conclusions
Paragraph formats and their applications (TEEL, PEEL, TEXAS)
Creating flexible outlines that don't restrict creativity
The drafting process—writing without restraint, separating drafting from editing
Analysing literary techniques and integrating them into non-literary writing
Editing strategies: reading aloud, peer review, content vs. technical edits
Managing prepared essays vs. in-class essays—time management frameworks

Practical Exercises

One-page essays to develop focus and concision
Peer proofreading to build editing and feedback skills
Writing and counter-writing on the same topic to identify argument weaknesses
In-class essay simulations with strict time allocations for planning, writing, and revising
Post-mortem analysis—reflecting on what worked and what to improve in future essays
Exercises applying literary techniques learned from textual analysis to original essays

Student progress will be evaluated throughout the course via small group tutorials and worksheets. If a student is not progressing at a satisfactory level, we will inform their parents during the course.