Essay planning, researching and writing

Industrial Design

Study & Learning Centre + Library

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Purpose

• Plan your topic
• Research your topic
• Draft your essay
• Edit your essay
What is in the planning?

• 1500 words
• Plan out ideas
• Add to, or eliminate parts
• Find theories
• Read and connect the theories

Decide:
What is my topic?
What is a do-able version of this topic?
What theories relate to this?
Idea!

The shed-shop
Mind map

Who might want some?

Where can I find 3 x 6 mm Phillips head screws!

Could I swap this for that?

They might come in handy

Expensive and time consuming to buy a box full

Neighbourhood share culture

I need one piece of plaster sheet, 10cm x 10cm!

Odd stuff database?
Industrial design system

- Drafting your ideas
- Write an ideas statement to clarify
Industrial design system: articulate

A community shed-shop

Description: A no-money-exchange data-base of the odds and ends that you have in your shed that someone else might like or need.
Industrial design system: articulate

A community shed-shop

Purpose: I don’t need a box of 200 nails, but someone in my neighbourhood might need 6 of them.

I need one small piece of skirting board for repairs and I don’t want to buy 6 metres of it!
Background:

• Some communities have tool libraries, a shed-shop database would complement that.
• Would help neighbours to meet and perhaps help each other out.
• Saves materials going into landfill (waste)
• Helps people de-clutter their sheds
• Can motivate people to de-clutter, by listing their materials as they clean out their sheds.
Requires further thinking

• Who will build and maintain the database?
• What are the rules around it?
  What are the safeguards (theft, personal safety issues)?
• Policy to deal with negative issues as they arise?
• What other, community-based websites like this exist?
What do you need to research?

precedents and theories to inform your writing

Academic sources are going to be best - generally resources like books and articles, but websites can be good too. Use some of the following criteria to assess the information:

- Who wrote it? Are they an expert - e.g., researcher, university lecturer, professional, designer;
- Is it well researched and referenced?
- What is their writing style? Is it academic or professional in focus?
- Has it gone through a peer review or editorial process? (unlike, say, a blog*).

Use a variety of sources to inform your research.
What theories might underpin this idea?

Some ideas:

Sharing economy + collaborative consumption.

Also - variations on these terms, and related ideas:

Peer economy / social enterprise / community enterprise

(Joyner Library, 1966)
Where will you find stuff? (research)

**Google Advanced Search** can help you refine your search to get more relevant results.

It looks more complicated than the normal Google search box, but it can be very useful!
Where will you find stuff? (research)

“Phrase search” - useful if you have a key term or phrase or name to search.

Use this option to remove unwanted words from your searches.
Where will you find stuff? (research)

Site or domain - useful to limit to a particular site, or type of website - e.g., .edu / .edu.au or ac.uk will be educational, .gov.au will be government, .org might be an American museum.

Use this option to limit results to a particular filetype - e.g., PDF or DOC.
Where will you find stuff? (research)

**LibrarySearch:**
Find books, e-books, articles, videos and more.

**Subject guides:**
Research guides made by librarians.

**Google Scholar:**
Use the RMIT Library link for access to more material.
Essay structure:

Introduce

Logical order

Conclusion
Paragraph structure

Using the TEEL structure

Well-structured paragraphs are important because if the information is well organised it is easier to read.

The TEEL strategy is very helpful for knowing what should be included in a paragraph:

- Topic sentence (contains the main idea is usually first in the paragraph)
- Explain
- Evidence and example (use references)
- Link (refer back or sum up main idea) - optional

Sample paragraph

One factor within the team that seems to be more important than the leader is the notion of team cohesiveness. Team cohesiveness enables a diverse group of individuals to work towards a common goal. Although there must be some minimum amount of cohesiveness if the team is going to continue to function as a team, Allen (2005, p. 68) states that highly cohesive teams are more motivated and effective in attaining goals when they have set these for themselves, and thus, achieve higher levels of member satisfaction. Further, Taylor (2010) found that team dynamics, particularly in teams with high team morale, were more important in terms of team effectiveness and productivity than the team leader. In this way, the productivity of any group of employees is influenced by their ability to effectively work together so that their specialised skills and capabilities are maximised.
Writing skills

Check out some of the essential writing skills needed in tertiary study.

What would you like to learn?
- Paraphrasing
- Linking words
- Paragraphs
- Sentence construction
- Spelling
- Academic style
- Referencing
- Academic integrity
- Writing for the workplace
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