

Case Study One

Argumentative Essay – Sustainability

Task Description: Develop and present an argumentative essay that addresses an aspect of sustainability.

Weighting: 40%

Level: Postgraduate first semester

Outline and Instructions:

Choose ONE topic from the list below:

1. Economic progress is needed to provide employment and higher standards of living. Discuss how important you think economic development is to society and how much it should be balanced with environmental conservation?

OR

2. Choose one human activity that is important to rural or regional Australia e.g. agriculture, mining, tourism or another activity of your choice, and outline how the sustainability triple-bottom-line applies to the impact of the activity.

OR

3. Urban sprawl has been contained by urban growth boundaries in many cities. How effective or ineffective is this planning strategy? Do you envisage there are any new types of urban developments that should be allowed out the growth boundaries? Provide evidence to support your case.

Your answer needs to include a strong thesis statement that states your position, demonstrate a clear argument and sound conclusions. You must also provide evidence from scholarly literature and relevant reports to support this position. You will need to research library databases, e-books and articles as well as websites. Write notes about what you find and remember to include the authorship details. You must include at least ten sources in your Reference List.

All written work should include the school's cover page at the front detailing full title of the task, the course code, student's name and student number, tutorial day and time and tutor name. Each page is to be numbered. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of your assessment task.

Marking Criteria:

- Evidence of a strong thesis statement that states a position.
- Demonstrated clear argument and sound conclusions
- Evidence from scholarly literature and relevant reports.
- Number and variety of resources used
- Presentation and writing quality

Submission: Hardcopy in submission box located outside School office

Case Study One

Workshop Rebuild

Workshop Participants

Hazel JONES (USQ), Timothy SCHLUB (Syd), Michelle GATTON (QUT), Anna BAGSHAW (UQ), Peter ADAMS (UQ)

Identified Problem Areas

- The cases are very generic - students don't need specific knowledge of a case to write the essay
- There are no personalised reflections in the submission
- There is nothing specific to the university the student attends, or to the location in which the university is placed, so a generic answer will not look unusual
- References and required answer have no link back to the teaching materials and content
- Hard copy submission has no meta data that you can investigate
- Generic marking criteria are not specific to unit, so the student is not rewarded for specific, personalised content.

Redesign of Assessment Task

- Include a presentation component of the assessment with question time so the assessor can ask the students questions about their work
- Change weighting to 30% essay, 15% presentation/defense
- Require some references to come from course notes or teaching materials
- Make submission electronic rather than hard copy
- Make the topics more specific to the learning objectives of the course – targeted and less generic e.g., in option 1 change society to a specific population.
- Make the locations or scenarios specific to the university location, so that students need local knowledge to write the essay
- Add in the requirement that the student needs to relate their argument to a specific population, place, event, or time.
- Add in a requirement that the student needs to pass every assessment item to pass the unit (so that they need to pass the presentation).