



DVA Essays-HOW TO - Notes

Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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HOW TO WRITE A DVA ESSAY

1. Google or YouTube is for your understanding-now use what you learnt from these and pick out the concept in the readers.

2. Introduction-

a) At least 2 lines of background information

b) Do not use first person (I/we)

c) **Then put your questions into a statement.** Note how I put my question into a statement after the brief background.

*The description of South Africa being referred to as having a 'first economy' and a 'second economy' by President Thabo Mbeki, in his address to the National Council of Provinces in November 2003, immediately conjured the concept of deep divide in reference to the country's economy. Whilst it has been noted that the informal sector plays a vital role in reducing unemployment and contributing significantly to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), it is also a sector that is linked with a series of hurdles that prevents it from developing further. With this in mind and for a better understanding of the informal sector as a whole, this essay will **define the informal economy. The effect of over-regulation and under-regulation in respect to legislation and policies on the operation and the performance of the sector will also be discussed. Finally a response to challenges facing the urban informal entrepreneurs will be identified and five possible solutions, thereof, will be provided.***

3. Main part of essay...

a) **Referencing:** The study guide by Ntema, Maphosa and Maseola (2017:29) defines basic water supply, according to The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) (2000) as...

Thereafter when referring to the same authors you can use (Ntema et al 2017: 29).

Ensure each paragraph has a reference at the end just to be safe. The water service authorities must be suitably equipped to provide end-users with information and on-going technological support (Ntema et al 2017: 35-37).

According to Potts (2017:76), the informal sector was well established in many African cities by the 1960s

Ntema and Marais (2017: 58) mentioned that in the 1950s and early 1960s many governments viewed the informal sector as not being viable.

b) **Tone:** Formal know your audience

c) **Paraphrasing:** Don't change the meaning of the text but always paraphrase

d) **Quotations:** Don't use more than one quote per essay: The study guide by Ntema, Maphosa and Maseola (2017:29) defines basic water supply, according to The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) (2000) as "the prescribed minimum standard of water supply services necessary for the reliable supply of a sufficient quantity and quality of water to households, including informal households, to support life and personal hygiene".

e) **Slot in examples** from your community/province/country or anything that made headlines e.g. #feesmustfall.

4. Conclusion

Summarise your essay in 3-5 lines then give your opinion based on your essay. **Don't include anything you have not written about in the body of your essay.**

Terms you can use: in conclusion/ from the above/ it can be concluded

From the above it can be concluded that a country's infrastructure can be likened to a bridge. Without it, the country is either at a standstill or fully isolated. Both of these choices are grim indeed, therefore, for economic growth or global competitiveness, reliable infrastructure is of paramount importance. Despite acknowledging this importance, many developing countries continue to face numerous challenges within this sector. In this regard, it becomes necessary for Governments to decide as to whether they are going to continue to remain prisoners of past actions or choose to combine vital available resources to build a unique identity for themselves.

5. **List of reference:** **Most important aspect of the essay and you has to get this right.**

For readers: Alzouma, G. 2017. Myths of digital technology in Africa, in *Sustainable Urban development. Reader for DVA2603*, compiled by LJ Ntema, B Maphosa & C Maseola. Pretoria: University of South Africa

For study guide: Ntema, LJ, Maphosa, B, and Maseola, C. 2017. *Sustainable Urban Development*. Only study guide for DVA2603. Pretoria: Unisa

IMPORTANT

1. No team last minute.
2. Read your questions.
3. Mark off areas/pages/sections of the reader or study guide the question asks you to refer to.
- 4 Read the entire chapter as if you reading for pleasure (joke right?) Most parts are foreign to you and you may understand just 1 section. After the 1st read, go back and reread the chapter's introduction and summary (highlight points you feel are relevant to your question). Introduction and summary has the import points summed up.
- 5 If you still don't understand, try to Google or YouTube then come back to your text. Answer one question a day if you have to.
6. Examples- difficult part of the essay (90%of the time I forget this as I'm concentrating on information in the SG & readers. As soon as you understand the text see if you can identify if this happened in your community/province/ country. Try to use at least one example that's in the media...Nelson Mandela children fund or current hearings relevant to the topic eg Zondo commission.
7. Don't worry about your introduction or conclusion until you understand what you wrote. Once you understand the body of the essay and feel that it answered all the questions your intro & conclusion will fall into place. My intro & conclusion is usually done after editing.