

# RESEARCH ESSAY

## Part 1

### Introduction, Situation & Problem

# INTRODUCTION

- **Present the hook** – using an interesting fact, quote or rhetorical question
- May **define** concepts and technical terms (jargons)
- **Briefly describes and contextualizes the situation and the problem**
- Information presented starts **from general to specific** statements
- May also **include what is not raised** in the essay
- Most importantly, provide the **thesis statement**
  - State the problem, why it's a problem, refer to a proposed solution for a problem

# PARAGRAPHING

- **First paragraph**

- Present the hook
- Introduce the topic
- Define terms/concepts/jargons
- General perception of the topic

- **Second paragraph**

- Brief description of situation/problem/issues related to topic
- Scope of the topic – may discuss what will not be covered in the essay

- **Third paragraph**

- Thesis Statement

# WRITING THE THESIS STATEMENT

- To write an **effective thesis statement** ask yourself the following questions:
  - What is your writing purpose?
  - What problem will be discussed?
  - In what context or milieu are you writing?
  - How will it be organized?

Paragraph 1	Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “The unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of the as one’s own original work” (Plagiarism, n.d.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Can occur in two different situations (Oshima &amp; Hogue, 1999, p.83): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Individual’s work - passed off as someone else’s without reference</li> <li>➤ Someone’s work mirrors another piece</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Brief problem introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plagiarism cases on the increase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Universities – buy – special technology</li> <li>➤ Plagiarism councils sit during term time</li> <li>➤ Students aware of and alert – risk of plagiarising</li> <li>➤ Accusations of plagiarism – penalties – academic misconduct.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Thesis Statement (Complete sentence)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This essay investigates the growing problem of plagiarism in universities and suggests reasonable solutions to it and evaluates the effectiveness of these solutions</li> </ul>

<p>'Plagiarism' (n.d.) is defined as “an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author’s work as one’s own, as by not crediting the original author” (para. 1). It is a serious offence and can occur in two different situations. The first being when an individual’s work is passed off as someone else’s without reference and the other is when someone’s work mirrors another piece (Oshima &amp; Hogue, 1999).</p>	<p>Definition</p> <p>Extended definition</p>
<p>Plagiarism is increasing in all higher education institutions throughout the world. It is so much of a problem that universities have had to buy special technology to scan every assignment submitted and plagiarism councils are frequently meeting during term time. Without question, it is something that students must be constantly aware of and on the alert for the risk of plagiarising. Accusations of plagiarism can lead to serious penalties for academic misconduct.</p>	<p>Brief introduction to situation / problem</p>
<p>This essay investigates the growing problem of plagiarism in universities and suggests reasonable solutions to it and evaluates the effectiveness of these solutions.</p>	<p>Thesis Statement</p>

# SITUATION

*A situation is defined as the set of things that are happening and conditions that exist at a particular time and place.*

- Define and describe the two situations
- Provide the background and context for the problems that will be discussed
- The situations include the causes of the problems
- Provide examples and reasons that show the situations given are important for discussion
- Show how the situations affect lives
- 4 paragraphs:
  - Introductory
  - Body Paragraph 1 – Situation 1
  - Body Paragraph 2 – Situation 2
  - Conclusion

# INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

Outline	Essay
<p><b>Introductory Statement (introduce the 2 situations):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>academic problem aggravated by</li><li>- advancement of technology</li><li>academicians no ethics -</li><li>plagiarizing other people' work</li></ul>	<p>These days, the situation clearly shows that plagiarism is an academic problem noticeably on the rise. This problem is exacerbated by the advancement of technology and academicians who have no scruples in plagiarizing other people' work.</p>



# BODY PARAGRAPHS

- All body paragraphs will follow the TEEEL structure:
  - Topic sentence
  - Explanation
  - Evidence
  - Explanation / analysis
  - Linking sentence
- All body paragraphs must have at least two evidence

# BODY PARAGRAPH 1 – 1<sup>ST</sup> SITUATION

<b>Topic Sentence:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rise in plagiarism - availability of technology - internet - mobile phones - games consoles</li></ul>
<b>Explanation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Cut and paste technology</li><li>➤ Lift another author's words into their own</li></ul>
<b>Evidence 1 &amp; Explanation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Drastic increase in 'essays for sale' via the internet.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ pick an essay or pay student/specialist to write</li></ul></li><li>➤ Google search on 'buying essays' results in approximately 4,840,000 results.</li><li>➤ Few websites offer guidance and advice<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ majority essay writing businesses – access to thousands of papers (Malvern, 2008).</li><li>✓ “there has been a ‘significant’ rise in pupils caught copying work from the web” (Welsh Joint Education Committee [WJEC], as cited in BBC News, 2006).</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Evidence 2 &amp; Explanation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Systems such as ‘Turnitin’ – costly a piece of software – alerts work copied<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ over 80% tertiary institutions in Britain have this (Kellerman, 2006).</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Linking Sentence:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advancement in technology – plagiarism popular and made <b>easier</b></li></ul>

The escalation of plagiarism in schools appears to be almost directly linked to the wider availability of technology as people now have the internet at home, on their mobile phones and even on games consoles. Cut and paste technology has made it too easy for the lazy or ignorant student or, even, academician to lift another author's words into their own. There's also been a drastic increase in 'essays for sale' via the internet. This is a service which students can log on and either pick an essay from a catalogue of subjects or pay another student or specialist to write it for them. A quick Google search on 'buying essays' results in approximately 4,840,000 results. A few websites offer guidance and advice, but the majority are essay writing businesses where thousands of papers can be accessed for as little as £4 (Malvern, 2008). According to the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) (as cited in BBC, News 2006), "there has been a 'significant' rise in pupils caught copying work from the web" (para. 5). Apart from that, it is costly to invest funds in systems such as 'Turnitin', a piece of software that sends out alerts when work has been copied, and yet over 80% of the tertiary institutions in Britain have thought it worthwhile to have this software (Kellerman, 2006). Due to advancement in technology, plagiarism nowadays has become much more popular and easier to do.

Topic Sentence

Explanation

Evidence and  
Explanation /  
Analysis

Linking  
sentence

# CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

Outline	Essay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• affects every corner of academia</li><li>• issue can be dangerous when students enter workforce</li></ul>	Plagiarism affects every corner of academia. If this is not curtailed, this issue can be dangerous once students enter the working world.

# PROBLEM

*A problem is a matter or issue regarded as unwelcome or harmful and needing to be dealt with or overcome*

- Provide two problems that arise from the situations given
- Describe the nature of the problems
- Give examples and reasons for the importance of identifying these problems
- Show how the problems affect: *(the effects of the problems)*
  - Mankind (society in general, citizens, specific groups of people)
  - Aspects like – socio-economic development, economy, environment, health, governance, education, etc.
- 4 paragraphs:
  - Introductory
  - Body Paragraph 1 – Situation 1
  - Body Paragraph 2 – Situation 2
  - Conclusion

# INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

Outline	Essay
<p><b>Introductory Statement (introduce the 2 problems):</b></p> <p>Plagiarism affects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ university's standing - income</li><li>➤ students' academic pursuit.</li></ul>	<p>A large amount of plagiarism can badly affect a university's standing and its income. Plagiarism can also affect students' academic pursuit.</p>

## BODY PARAGRAPH 1 – 1<sup>ST</sup> PROBLEM

<b>Topic Sentence:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Image tarnished if plagiarism rampant among staff and students.</b></li></ul>
<b>Explanation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Institutions with high cases - unable to teach students write academic style</b></li></ul>
<b>Evidence 1 &amp; Explanation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Intake of students decrease – bad reputation</li><li>➤ Ability to earn will decrease (Banwell, 2003).</li><li>➤ Solution expel the students<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Argument against it – university league tables – large drop-out rate.</li></ul></li><li>➤ If student kept - grades might be cut<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Again league tables – show poor results</li></ul></li><li>➤ Big problem how to discipline students who commit plagiarism.</li></ul>
<b>Explanation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Major difficulty policing plagiarism - student may have plagiarised by accident</b></li></ul>
<b>Evidence 2 &amp; Explanation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Mark deduction affects university career<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Seem to be unfair (Armitstead, 2008)</li></ul></li><li>➤ If take disciplinary action – could hurt their image</li></ul>
<b>Linking Sentence:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reputation of student and institution at risk – lack academic integrity</b></li></ul>

A university's image will be tarnished if plagiarism is rampant among its staff and students. Those with a track record of high plagiarism cases are frowned upon and looked upon as unable to teach students how to write in an academic style. It is understandable that their intake of students may decrease as they gain a bad reputation and therefore their ability to earn will decrease (Banwell, 2003). An obvious answer is to expel the students but one strong argument against it is that university league tables will show that one particular institution has a large drop-out rate. If students are retained, their grades might be cut and again the league tables will show poor results for the university. A big problem facing universities is how to discipline students who commit plagiarism. A major difficulty in policing plagiarism within a university is that the students may have plagiarised by accident and then a mark deduction affecting the rest of their university career would seem unfair (Armitstead, 2008). By disciplining students who commit plagiarism, universities could also be hurting their image. Hence, what is at risk is the academic integrity and reputation of the student and the institution he or she belongs to.

Topic Sentence

Explanation

Evidence and Explanation / Analysis

Explanation

Evidence and Explanation / Analysis

Linking sentence



# CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

Outline	Essay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Affects both universities and students</li><li>• Their integrity questioned</li></ul>	<p>In conclusion, it is evident that plagiarism affects both the universities and students and their integrity will be questioned if rampant plagiarism go unchecked.</p>

***TO BE CONTINUED....***