

## Short Essay 1

### Prompt

Stop the clock! News alert! The prominent scientist Edwin Hubble has claimed to discover conclusive evidence that the Universe has a beginning. It is being called in some quarters evidence that the Universe began with a 'Big Bang'. Others reject this wholeheartedly. They claim that the evidence for the Big Bang shows only that the Universe once experienced a 'Big Crunch' before expanding once again, a cycle of crunch, bang, crunch and so on that has and will go on for eternity.

You are a journalist for the NY Times. Your editor sends you the following assignment:

All this bang/crunch talk is getting those science folk in a tizzy. I can't make heads or tails of it, but our readers want an explanation. Please write a very accessible piece explaining the supposed evidence for the Big Bang and the debate over whether it shows that the Universe has a beginning. Make sure to explain the alternative of bang/crunch/bang/crunch and so on .

And remember, we need to sell newspapers! When I say 'accessible', I mean that it better be understandable by your average joe, someone with only a high school diploma.

If you make this simple enough, we might even give you a regular column!

### Further Instruction

- Write in very simple English prose.
- Use vivid examples.
- This essay covers material in pp.73-76 in 'Travels in Four Dimensions'.
- We will not have discussed these pages before you complete the assignment. This is by design. Read only the allocated pages. While they are difficult, reading it carefully will suffice for completing the assignment.
- Write 250-500 words. No more. No less.
- Submit your responses by Mon. @ 1pm.