

Year 9 Engineering: How to Write an Essay

Essay Question:

Evaluate how effectively your tower design supported the weight during testing. What design features contributed to its success or failure, and how would you modify your design to improve its performance in future builds?

1. Understanding the Essay Question

This essay is asking you to:

- Evaluate (judge or assess) how well your tower held the weight.
- Explain what parts of your design helped it work well or made it fail.
- Suggest improvements you could make for next time.

2. Essay Structure

Your essay should have three main parts:

Introduction

- A short paragraph that explains what your tower was meant to do.
- Briefly mention whether it worked well or not.
- State what your essay will discuss.

Body Paragraphs

- One paragraph on how well the tower performed during the test. Use facts and describe what happened.
- One paragraph on the design features that helped or hurt its performance. Mention things like shape, materials, or joints.
- One paragraph on what you would do differently next time and why.

Conclusion

- Summarise your tower's performance.
- Restate the most important design feature.
- Finish with a sentence about what you learned from the project.

3. Writing Tips

- Use clear and simple sentences.
- Use past tense to talk about what you did (e.g., "The tower held the weight for 10 seconds.")
- Use linking words to make your writing flow better:
 - To show cause and effect: because, therefore, as a result
 - To add more ideas: also, in addition, furthermore
 - To contrast: however, but, although

4. Sentence Starters

Introduction:

- "In this essay, I will evaluate the performance of my tower design."
- "The goal of the tower was to support a set weight for a certain amount of time."

Body Paragraphs:

- "During testing, my tower..."
- "One feature that helped the design was..."
- "The tower failed when... because..."
- "To improve the design, I would..."

Conclusion:

- "In conclusion, my tower..."
- "The most important design feature was..."
- "This project taught me that..."

5. Final Checklist

Before you hand in your essay, check:

- [] Did I answer all parts of the question?
- [] Do I have an introduction, body, and conclusion?
- [] Did I explain my ideas clearly?
- [] Did I check for spelling and punctuation?