

Assessment: Problem Solution Essay Prompt

The major assessment task in ES1103 is the problem solution essay. Read the guidelines and the prompt below:

- Write about 900-1000 words (excluding the reference list).
- Use the concepts encountered in the tutorials to structure your text, support your ideas/claims, cite external sources and use an appropriate register. This is closely linked to the rubrics which you should read carefully to understand how your writing will be evaluated.
- Check the assignment timeline on the course schedule on IVLE.

Prompt:

Many in society argue that governments should pay for all higher (i.e. post-secondary) education, including tuition fees for students at colleges, polytechnics and universities. Others believe that such costs should instead be borne by the individual, on the basis that he or she will be the ultimate beneficiary of this education.

Describe ONE problem that may result from the adoption of EITHER (a) a higher education system that is entirely state-funded OR (b) one that is completely self-funded, explaining what, in your view, the problem is. Your essay should focus on a particular community or country. Where possible, evaluate one or two existing approaches that address your chosen problem. Suggest one or more new or improved measures that may further mitigate it.

Getting started:

- Analyse the prompt for content, instruction, value and scope words.
- Refer to the general reading list (see the Synthesis HO) on the topic of *a free education* to gain some background knowledge of the issue. As you read, start a 'Sources Grid' to keep track of your sources, and to summarize the main points.
- Decision time: narrow down your topic according to the prompt.
- Search for sources that are more precisely related to your chosen topic (see document "How to find sources for your essays"). **Ensure that you are including academic sources such as articles in peer review journals.** These will give you the concrete data you need to support your claims (which a journalistic article might not). Engage your readings strategies to read effectively and efficiently.
- Follow the steps and advice detailed in the course handout "The Essay Process".