



Strategies for Essay Exams

Identify a thesis statement

Your thesis is one or two sentences that describes the point of your essay. This will be the last sentence in your introduction

Make a quick outline

Organize your thoughts after you read the question. Defend your thesis, identify the “who, what, when, where, and why”, explain the significance of the question. Prove you understand the concept of the question

Write a conclusion

Summarize your thoughts from the body paragraphs. Reiterate why your thesis statement is correct

Use transition words

Use words such as, “first”, “furthermore”, “however”, “lastly”. These words will help your essay flow

Double space answers

Double spacing responses will make it easier for your instructor to read your answers