# PIT 454: Mastering Students to Write Effective Essays

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### ABSTRACT

- Essay writing important aspects
- Form 4 students first time without guidance not able to write or expand the points correctly and effectively
- several activities have been carried out
- shown drastic performance resulted

### REFLECTIONS ON PREVIOUS TEACHING AND LEARNING



Write more than 350 words To expand or elaborate the content points Essays not effective and show lack of maturity

Do not hand in the essays

## PIT 454

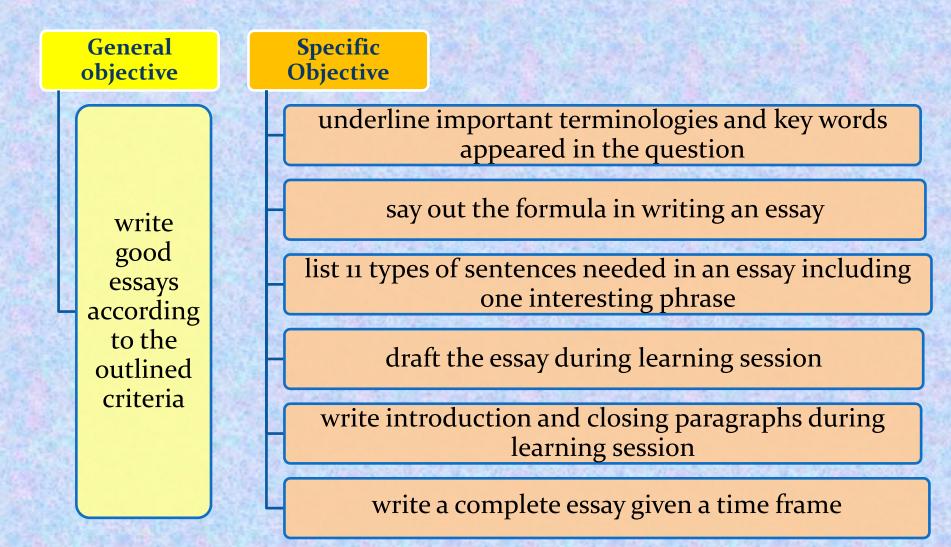
- P "Pendahuluan" (Introduction)
- I "Isi" (Main (Points))
- T "Tutup" (Closing)
- 4 4 sentences in an introductory paragraph
- 5 5 sentences in each paragraph that elaborates a point, and 5 points in an essay
- 4 4 sentences in a closing paragraph

## FOCUS OF THE STUDY

 Form 4 students for Bahasa Malaysia subject specifically Paper I (essay writing)

 good results for Bahasa Malaysia paper in SPM 2010

# **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**



### **TARGET GROUP**

 35 students from Form 403 of SMK Sungai Layar, Sungai Petani, Kedah Malaysia

11 boys and 24 girls

 scored either A or B grade for their Bahasa Malaysia paper in PMR 2008

## ACTION TAKEN Activity 1 (WHO AM I)

Activity • introducing specific terms used in essay writing

#### Observation

- excitedly filling in the blanks in the table by choosing the words provided in the questions
- compared their answers with their friends
- demand a confirmation from teacher
- argued with their friends and teacher

#### Reflections

- easy activity and appeal to the students
  able to grace upderstand and apply the grace
- able to grasp, understand and apply the specific vocabulary for other essay questions

## ACTION TAKEN Activity 2 ( 5 IPT )

#### Activity

• explains about the formula of essay

#### Observation

 easily remember the given formula since the numbers used in the formula are small.

#### Reflections

 helps the students to remember on the needs of the five points listed for the essay

## ACTION TAKEN Activity 3 (TRUE FALSE )

• explains on the technique to write an essay

#### Observation

Activity

- early stage the students need to refer to the notes with types of sentences required in essay writing.
- after 2 or 3 times they are already used to it

#### Reflections

 able to list down all types of sentences needed

## ACTION TAKEN Activity 4 (LET'S SHOOT - List and Structure/Frame)

and share and	<ul> <li>List down the main/important points related to the topic (List)</li> <li>Used those points to write the structure of the essay correctly (Structure/Frame)</li> <li>Use checklist to ensure the students do not leave out important aspects which needed to be included in their essay</li> </ul>	
Activity		
Observation	<ul> <li>carried out individually, students tend to spend more time listing the relevant content points</li> <li>easier to brainstorm and list out the relevant content points after they carry out group discussion</li> </ul>	
Reflections	<ul> <li>they will not make repetitions, incomplete content points and other mistakes while writing</li> </ul>	

### ACTION TAKEN Activity 5 (INTRODUCTION AND CLOSING )

### Activity

• write the required sentences (4 sentences) in each introductory paragraph and closing paragraph.

### Observation

- list of the essay outline in Activity 4 helps students a lot
- ensure that they are using the types of sentences required as there is a difference in the introductory and closing paragraph.

### Reflections

• able to write introductory and closing paragraph within the time given

## ACTION TAKEN Activity 6 ( DONE )

•

### Activity

completed their paragraphs of content points at home and handed the essay to the teacher to be checked according to the SPM level of marking scheme.

### Observation

• able to complete the task within the time given.

### Reflections

no more problems to complete the tasks givenmore confident in doing their work

## **REFLECTION OF THE RESEARCH**

BEFORE	not having ideas to list down the content points	AFTER	group work
	Cannot write essay more than 350 words		refer to the outline
	did not show maturity		fulfill the criteria required
	Did not do the homework		still complete the task at anytime

because of absent

## SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

 more intervention is required to help students' acquisition of grammatically correct sentence construction

 An essay is not only assessed by the number of content points and number of words that the students can write but good acquisition of grammar and sentence construction is also compulsory.