

TOK Essay Planning Form

(Based on the question 'How does emotion enable us to find truth in the Arts and History?')

Name _____

Essay Question _____

Introduction

Key Question Words which will need to be focused on in the answer

(you may or may not need this in the introduction but it will help you to focus on what the question is really asking)

Word

Personal Definition

Word	Personal Definition
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Overall summary of answer

(You definitely do need this in the introduction - try to come to a realistic, balanced, sensible overall answer to the question. Remember, the best answers will not just view the answer as black and white or yes and no, instead they will usually point out that the answer is not the same in each WOK or AOK – for example, they will point out that the kinds of truths that emotion provides us with in the arts is different to that which it provides us with in history. The very best answers might even point out that emotion actually has a number of different roles within history – one role is that it allows us to empathise with others but it also has the quite different role of enabling us to morally evaluate historical events and decide whether they were right or wrong / monstrous or humane. Attempt this kind of subtlety in your answer)

Main Body

Supporting Point 1

This is one of the points you need to prove in order to support your overall answer. Think of it as one of the foundations on which your overall answer rests – so for the above example one point you need to prove is that emotion really is used in history to enable us to empathise with others. If you can't prove this then your answer won't stand up. You don't need lots of detail here (that's why you only have three lines) – the point should be quite simple and clear, the detail comes later.

Evidence for

This should be an example that proves the point above, in this case an example where emotion has been used by historians to empathise with other people and so gain knowledge. You will need to explain exactly how the evidence you have given proves the Main Point. Some of your examples should be from research while some should be from your own personal experience, e.g. your use of emotion as an IB historian. Try to strike a balance between the two in your essay.

Counterclaim

Evidence!
Assumptions?
Implications?
Perspectives?

This should be an argument against Supporting Point 1. You might attack that point by offering some alternative evidence that proves the opposite, or by pointing out a problem with the evidence used above or by highlighting some unwanted implications or unjustified assumptions that this point is based on. You will need evidence here to justify your counterclaim. Different cultural perspectives can be a good source of counterclaims! Remember: you don't have to have a counterclaim for every point but you do need to counterclaims on at least a few occasions in your essay.

Response

Evidence!

This is where you evaluate how much of a problem the counterclaim is for your argument. Is it a major attack or not much to worry about? Your response can argue that the counterclaim is simply wrong or it may take the form of finding a compromise between the CC and your original point. Either way you will need some new evidence here to support what you are saying.

Repeat this structure for the rest of the main body of the essay. Four is a good number of Main Points to make but if you want to include more then just print out another sheet

Supporting Point 2

Evidence For

Counterclaim

Evidence!
Assumptions?
Implications?
Perspectives?

Response

Evidence!

Supporting Point 3

Evidence For

Counterclaim

Evidence!
Assumptions?
Implications?
Perspectives?

Response

Evidence!

Supporting Point 4

Evidence For

Counterclaim

Evidence!
Assumptions?
Implications?
Perspectives?

Response

Evidence!

Main Body

Conclusion

Your conclusion should sum up your overall position and make it clear to the reader how you think you have proven the answer you introduced at the start. In addition, especially if you have not done this earlier in the essay, you should think about the implications (or consequences) that your overall answer has and any assumptions on which it is based.

Implications

Assumptions
