Essay 1
Writing an Argumentative Essay:
Outlines, citations and revision
Essay Question

“Modern marriage roles are better than traditional ones.” Do you agree with this statement?
Note the Key Words

Question 1

Areas:

- Modern marriages
- Traditional marriages
- Better than
What is a thesis statement?

It:

- is a statement which states the main idea of the essay.
- outlines the scope of the essay.
- forms the basis for an expository essay.
Writing a thesis statement

• Write your thesis statement which should basically be your response to the requirements of the question (two lines).

• Underline the key words in your thesis statement. Keep these as your focus as you gather information for your essay.
Developing an argument

• Write 3 points that support your thesis

• Decide on the rhetorical patterns you will use to develop your supporting points

• Note the 3 models of organizing an essay
Introduction

What you can include in an introduction

• Shared knowledge

• Rhetorical Question

• Background Information

• Quotation
Introduction
What you can include in an introduction
• Defining/Describing (to provide further focus)
• Establishing chronological perspective
• Establishing relevance of a quotation
• Introducing the thesis
• Limiting the Subject
Body paragraphs

• Topic sentence

• Supporting points: evidence, cause-effect, comparison/contrast, problem-solution, examples, explanation, restatement
The purpose of a Conclusion

• Restate the thesis statement

• Summarize the main points

• Reminds the reader of writer’s purpose

• Evaluate ideas mentioned in the body paragraphs

• Make recommendations

• Draw implications
Why Cite?

• To uphold academic integrity

• To back up arguments with experts’ views

• To demonstrate understanding of the current literature on the topic
Two Types of Citation

In-text

End-text
Common styles of Citing

American Psychological Association (APA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

American Chemical Society (ACS)
Resources

NUS Library: LION
http://www.lib.nus.edu.sg/lion/s/citation.html

NUS Library: ENDNOTE
http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/endnote

Microsoft Word (see under “References”)
Some basic issues about Academic Texts in English

Contractions (e.g. wasn’t or don’t)

Personal pronouns (i.e. I or We)

Initial but or because (i.e., beginning sentences but with but or because)

Personal pronouns

...we have established that...

... We observed that the antidot arrays

Our results demonstrate a convenient technique....

Personal Pronouns

...in this study I examine two successful adult Chinese EFL learners

I show, for example, how these learners ....

I attempt to account for the apparent discrepancy...

I examine three stages of learning...