

*'Let's get on with it'*



What is  
**ESSAY WRITING?**

A piece of writing on a topic which presents the writer's point of view in an organised way.

To write in an organised way, you must plan your essay.

An academic essay consists of :

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Main Body
- 03** Conclusion
- 04** References/Bibliography



For further information see the  
**Assignment Writing Study Guide**

**Let's consider the following topic:**

*Waisele Serevi is a great rugby player and a role model for the people of Fiji. Discuss.*

## **01 INTRODUCTION**

This has 3 stages which collectively set the tone of your essay.

### **01 ORIENTATION TO THE TOPIC**

This is where you create the reader's interest in your topic.

### **02 A BRIEF DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOPIC**

This may include all or some of the following:

- a definition
- the importance of the topic
- explanation of main theories
- references to research findings
- a thesis statement

### **03 A STATEMENT OF SCOPE AND PLAN**

This is where you tell the reader the main points you will be raising and the order of discussion of these points.

The order of discussion of your main points should be determined by the emphasis you wish to place on them [main points].

## **02 MAIN BODY**

This is where you discuss the main points mentioned in your introduction in the same order given in the introduction.



What is a **THESIS STATEMENT?**

A thesis statement is a statement of opinion which shows the specific position that you are taking and that you need to defend throughout your essay with evidence.

## Steps you can take to construct a thesis statement:

01 I am writing about **state the topic of your essay**, and I am going to argue/show/prove **write the focus of your essay**.

For example:

*I am writing about Waisele Serevi and I am going to show how his seemingly unequalled greatness as a rugby player is balanced by his reputation as a role model for the people of Fiji.*

02 Refine the sentence so that it is consistent with your style.

For example:

*Serevi's international reputation seems unsurpassable; however, this essay maintains that his international reputation is easily matched by his local image.*



### Activity

Revise the following thesis statements to include a claim that can be developed in an essay:

01 Tokelau is an excellent tourist destination.

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02 Student Learning Support (SLS) contributes to learning and teaching at USP.

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## Sample Answers

01 *The friendly atmosphere, extraordinary environment and the favourable weather makes Tokelau an excellent tourist destination.*

02 *The Student Learning Support assists students in various ways: tutorial support, workshops and peer mentoring.*

## A Sample Introduction

Orientation to topic

Waisale Serevi is regarded as the greatest rugby sevens player of all time and a role model for the people

Brief development of topic

of Fiji. As a professional rugby player, he has successfully represented Fiji in all the major international rugby tournaments: Hong Kong Sevens, Rugby World Cup, and the Rugby World Cup Sevens. As a citizen of Fiji, he is hailed as a role model for he is not only a staunch Christian, but a dedicated family man, and a convincing ambassador for local institutions and for his country. *Serevi's international reputation seems unsurpassable; however, this essay maintains that his international reputation is easily matched by his local image.*

Thesis Statement

Evidence of Serevi's greatness as a professional rugby player will be presented in the first part of this essay. In the second part, a detailed discussion of his attributes as a role model will be given.

Statement of scope & plan

## Sample Thesis Statement

Serevi's international reputation seems unsurpassable; however, this essay maintains that his international reputation is easily matched by his local image.

## Main Supporting Ideas to be Expected in the Essay:

### 01 EVIDENCE OF SEREVI'S GREATNESS AS A RUGBY PLAYER

*Paragraph 1* – Hong Kong tournaments-mention the years he participated and his achievements (titles, awards, etc) there

*Paragraph 2* – Rugby World Sevens-mention how many times he participated and what his achievements were.

### 02 DISCUSSION OF HIS ATTRIBUTES AS A ROLE MODEL

*Paragraph 3* – Serevi the Christian (Is this shown in what he does and where he goes? Evidence? How does this boost his local reputation as a role model?)

*Paragraph 4* - Serevi the family man (How is he a good family man? Evidence? Does this help his local image as a role model?)

*Paragraph 5* – Serevi the ambassador (Who or what does he represent locally and abroad? How does this help his local image as a role model?)



## Activity

Examine the following thesis statements and predict the main supporting ideas you would expect to find in the essay and the order in which they might be introduced.

(Adapted from Meyers 2005).

**01** The friendly atmosphere, extraordinary environment and the favourable weather makes Tokelau an excellent tourist destination.

#### Paragraph 1:

*The people of Tokelau are known for their friendliness.*

#### Paragraph 2:

#### Paragraph 3:

**02** The Student Learning Support assists students in various ways: tutorial support, workshops and peer mentoring.

#### Paragraph 1:

*SLS offers tutorial support through its Drop-In Centre.*

#### Paragraph 2:

#### Paragraph 3:



## Sample Answers

**01** Paragraph 2: Elaborate on the attractive features of the environment. (clean? beaches?)

*Paragraph 3: Illustrate the positive aspects of the weather in Tokelau.*

**02** Paragraph 2: Explain the nature of workshops provided by SLS.

*Paragraph 3: Explain the peer mentoring program.*



Refer below for more information on paragraphs

## What is a PARAGRAPH?

A paragraph is a group of sentences about one particular point or idea. It should contain a topic sentence which expresses the main idea of the paragraph. This first sentence should flow on from the previous paragraph. The rest of the paragraph should contain further relevant information and examples that support the main idea. (Dickson College n.d). Remember, high marks are awarded to essays that are original, by using relevant and local examples.



## Activity

**01** Identify the different parts (i.e. topic sentence, examples, evidence, links, in-text reference) of the following paragraph about Waisele Serevi.

*Waisale Serevi's rugby sevens career and fame began with the 'Hong Kong Sevens' Tournaments. He earned the title of 'Player of the Tournament' when he made his debut in 1989 - a title he won again in 1990 and 1998. Furthermore, Serevi was instrumental in Fiji's three consecutive wins (a first time ever in the history of 'Hong Kong Sevens') from 1990 to 1992. In addition, Serevi was identified as the 'top scorer' in 1996, the year that he captained the Fiji Team. In 1997, when the 'Hong Kong Sevens' doubled as the 'Rugby Sevens World Cup', top scorer Serevi captained the winning team and returned with the 'Melrose Cup' as he had promised to the people of Fiji. (Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia n.d).*

**02** Based on your knowledge of a good paragraph, develop the following point.

*Waisele Serevi was instrumental in Fiji's success during the World Cup Sevens Tournament.*

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## Sample Answer

Topic sentence

Evidence of extraordinary achievements in Hong Kong

Transition






In-text referencing

**01** Waisele Serevi's rugby career and fame began with the 'Hong Kong Sevens' Tournaments. He earned the title of 'Player of the Tournament' when he made his debut in 1989 - a title he won again in 1990 and 1998. Furthermore, Serevi was instrumental in Fiji's three consecutive wins (a first time ever in the history of 'Hong Kong Sevens') from 1990 to 1992. In addition, Serevi was identified as the 'top scorer' in 1996, the year that he captained the Fiji Team. In 1997, when the 'Hong Kong Sevens' doubled as the 'Rugby Sevens World Cup', top scorer Serevi captained the winning team and returned with the 'Melrose Cup' as he had promised to the people of Fiji. (Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia n.d).

## 03 CONCLUSION

The conclusion summarises the main points of your argument by stating how the essay has proven that Serevi as the local idol is just as big as Serevi the international rugby star. You can also re-emphasize your thesis statement here.

### Don't

-  include new information.
-  include a minor point.
-  end with a long quotation.
-  repeat your introduction.
-  make sweeping statements your evidence cannot support.

(Williamson 2003)



## Sample Conclusion

To conclude, Waisele Serevi has an outstanding list of sevens rugby achievements. Apart from winning the 'Player of the Tournament' awards on several occasions, he has also earned the title of 'Top Scorer' and, unofficially, the 'playmaker'. In addition to his success in the international rugby scene, the essay has shown that he is also an important role model for the people of Fiji. His life reflects that of a staunch Christian, a devoted husband and a loving father. Evidence has also shown that Serevi is a 'people' person and represents every class and race of Fiji. Therefore, Serevi's image to the people of Fiji is as prominent as his reputation as the 'Greatest Sevens Player' of all time.

## 04 BIBLIOGRAPHY



For further information see the **Using References Study Guide**

When you write your bibliography, be sure to check what referencing style your department requires. Also, remember that you are required to do both in-text referencing as well as the Reference/Bibliography section at the end.

# ESSAY CHECKLIST:

## 01 INTRODUCTION/CONCLUSION

- Is my point of view on the topic clearly stated in the introduction?*
- Does my introduction say what I will be doing and how?*
- Does my conclusion summarise my main points and offer some outcome?*

## 02 CONTENT

- Have I answered all the parts of the question?*
- Have I met the fixed criteria? (refer to Assignment questions and marking guide)*
- Have I clearly identified my key points?*
- Are my key points presented in a logical sequence?*
- Are each of my points supported by sufficient information and examples?*

## 03 USE OF SUPPORTING MATERIAL

- Is the material relevant (original specific to the question/topic)?*
- Does the material support my views or not?*
- Does the information flow with my central argument?*

## 04 PLAGIARISM

- Have I distinguished between my ideas and the ideas of others?*
- Is the ratio of my ideas more than that of others?*

## 05 REFERENCING AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Have I acknowledged quotations?*
- How have I identified the ideas of others within the text?*
- Have I fully referenced each quoted phrase or idea?*
- Have I included a bibliography listing of all of my background reading (if required)?*

## 06 PRESENTATION

- Is there enough space for tutor comments?*
- Is my handwriting clear enough?*
- Are my sentences short and focused?*
- Are each of my paragraphs clearly focused?*
- Have I fully referenced each quoted phrase or idea?*