**Research Project Outcome as Explanatory Essay**

**2000 words max.**

An Explanatory Essay is an Essay that explains how and why something happened.

You might choose this text type for your Outcome if you are presenting a case of how and why something has changed over time (cause-and-effect sequences). This might include topics such as:

* Changes to the way we live (Eg. Mobile phone use, social issues such as bullying etc).
* Physical changes and what causes (Eg. How sun damages your skin and causes cancer etc).
* Historical topics (The History of Medieval Europe and its influence on Australian society today).

The basic format of an Explanatory Essay is:

Focus Question

Introduction

* Background Information or Phenomenon Explanation in which you specify what you are writing about using the language of the question. This includes **briefly listing the key findings or factors** involved.

Body

* A **series of explanation sequences** (this will identify the **key findings**, causes or factors, from your research). Each of these sequences (usually 1 to 4 paragraphs long) should contain and explanation of each factor, including the definition of any **technical terms** or language. As a guide, each paragraph could follow the following method (PEEL or TEEL):

**Point** – Make a point, or explain the main key finding. This is also called a **Topic sentence** where you state your key finding or cause. You can connect to previous sequences or paragraphs using words and phrases such as “One major factor…”; “Another important development “ ; “Perhaps the most outstanding development…”; “Also”; or “One unique finding” ; “Firstly” ; “Second,” “Third” etc.

**Explain** the point of key finding and how it connects to your topic, and supports your overall explanation. This includes any technical terms or language.

**Expand** on the importance of this key finding, include any related data or evidence.

**Link** the paragraph to the topic, to the next paragraph, or next part of your sequence. This should also be a **summary** of how your key finding relates to your topic.

Conclusion

* **Summary** of all the factors or key findings and some general statements about what is the most important factor, or is common to all factors.

Research Outcome

Focus Question or Statement

(Introduction)

(Body)

Key finding or Factor 1

Key finding or Factor 2

Key finding or Factor 3

Key finding or Factor 4

Key finding or Factor 5

Key finding or Factor 6\*

(Conclusion)

# Bibliography

Schill, J. (2008). Explanatory Essay. In J. Schill, *On Target: Creating a Text for Purpose* (pp. 101-105). Port Melbourne: Heinemann.

\* This is not limited to only six key findings or factors (you could have more or less).