

Tutors' comments on first-year essays

From: Brown, G with Bull, J and Pendlebury, M (1997) *Assessing Student Learning in Higher Education*. London: Routledge

Here are a few comments which were written by tutors on some essays by first-year undergraduates during their first term. The essays were approximately 2,000 words long.

- 1 C-. Fine
- 2 Interesting attempt. C+.C-?
- 3 Opening lousy, main part OK. No conclusion. Give some refs. next time. C-.
- 4 C-. Good first attempt. Your real opening is on p.2. Try to give your answer in the concluding paragraph and do provide more refs.
- 5 Your style of writing is appalling. Didn't you learn anything in school about essay writing? You have no conclusion, a vague rambling opening and insufficient references. This is a university department, not a kindergarten. C-.
- 6 Clarity of handwriting is no substitute for clarity of argument. You have neither. Need I say more? C-.
- 7 David. I've made some detailed comments below. The numbers refer to the relevant parts of the essay. The essay had the makings of a good essay but you need to state clearly in your opening the parameters of the essay. Do give your own answer and do provide references. These comments are important to bear in mind before writing other essays. C-.
- 8 Fine. C.