

How to breakdown essay terms?

Account for:	Give reasons for, explain why something happened
Analyse:	Examine in very close detail, identify important points and key features
Comment on:	Identify and write about the main issues, giving your reactions based upon what you have read or heard in lectures. Avoid purely personal opinions
Compare and contrast:	Present both the similarities and the differences between two or more things
Criticise:	Evaluate a topic or question using relevant evidence and arguments. Give your own view supported by relevant evidence
Define:	Explain the exact meaning of the term or phrase
Describe:	Give a detailed account of
Discuss:	Tease out different aspects of the topic. Give reasons for and against the argument. Be logical
Distinguish:	Bring out the differences between two items
Evaluate/Review:	Examine both sides of an issue or argument. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the topic. Include your own views supported by evidence
Examine:	Put the subject under the microscope, putting it in detail
Explain:	Give reasons and/or evidence to support your account of the topic
Give an account of:	Describe the topic in detail
Illustrate:	Explain using appropriate examples/diagrams

Interpret:	Give the meaning or relevance of it
List:	Present information as brief points, no description
Justify:	Give evidence which supports an argument or idea, show why decisions or conclusions were made
Narrate:	Concentrate on saying what happened, telling it as a story
Outline:	Organise your answer to indicate the main features/facts or general principals underlying the given topic
State:	Present a clear and brief account
Summarise:	Provide a concise account of the main points
Trace:	Describe the historical development of