

Essay – A3002 – Cosmology

Final copy due September 15th. You can hand it in, or email it to me:

brian@mso.anu.edu.au

I strongly encourage you to send me a draft by September 8th. While this draft is optional, it will allow me to help you produce a better essay. Please email it if possible.

Your first task for Cosmology is to write an approximately 700 word Op-Ed piece on “Why I am studying Cosmology”. Op-Ed is short for “Opinion-Editorial”, and these are the articles that frequently appear in the newspaper in the editorial section, or in various other guises in blogs, magazines, or other parts of newspapers. If English is not your native language, please let me know, and I will factor this in when I am reading your essay.

Some Suggestions for Good Writing

Write with a point of view. Figure out what you are writing about before you start writing. This should be a point of view that will interest the reader because they can identify with it, or perhaps that it surprises them, or confronts their views.

Write with precision. Use short, crisp, and to-the-point sentences and paragraphs.

Write with persuasion. Your goal is to engage the reader to be interested in and accepting your point of view. Present your views in a clear and concise manner. Avoid being vague, confusing, and intricate in your arguments.

Write with structure: Good writing is not just the use of language. In almost anything other than literature it is far more important to have a structure to your prose which clearly and neatly defines what you are trying to say. And finally, don't forget about a catchy beginning and a catchy end.

Assessment: 10% of your Cosmology Grade

90% or above: Outstanding essay, worthy of publication in a newspaper, or magazine

80%-90%: A very good essay with all aspects of suggestions for good writing implemented.

70%-80%: A good essay which is deficient in one or more areas.

60%-70%: An essay which is deficient in several areas