

Writing the Essay Title

Updated 2-15-14

Upon completion of this section, you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. The essay title is like a _____ because it makes an announcement.
2. The essay title performs what three jobs?
3. List three strategies for writing an essay title.
4. List two don'ts for writing an essay title.

The essay title is like a billboard: it makes an announcement.

Billboard:



Essay:

	Student's Last Name 1
Student's Name	
Professor's Name	
Course Name & Number	
Date	
Who Would You Rather See Live? Animal Research Saves Lives	

Billboard:



Essay:

Student's Last Name 1

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Name & Number

Date

Why Love One But Eat the Other?
Choose Vegetarian

Billboard:



Essay:

	Student's Last Name 1
Student's Name	
Professor's Name	
Course Name & Number	
Date	
I Am Working Hard to Make America Strong: Immigrants Build a Better Life for All of Us	

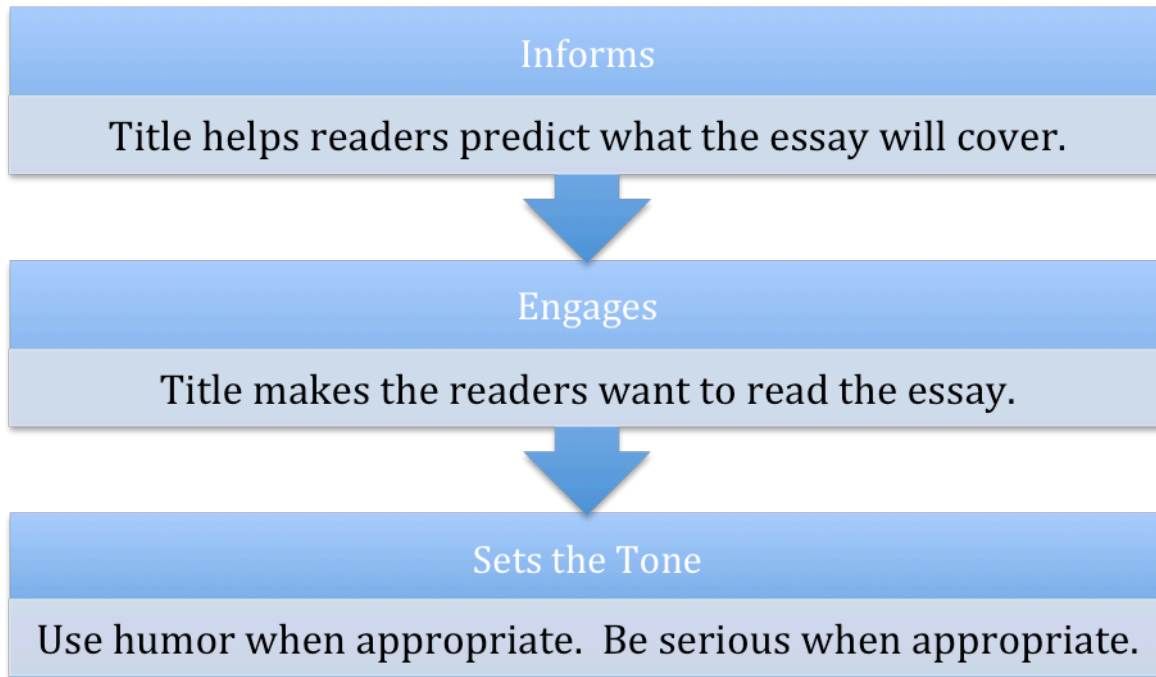
Billboard:



Essay:

Student's Last Name 1
Student's Name
Professor's Name
Course Name & Number
Date
Distracted Drivers Kill!

The Essay Title Performs Three Jobs



Three Strategies for Writing the Essay Title

1. Use **KEY WORDS** from your essay.
2. **ASK A QUESTION** that your essay answers.
3. Start with a **CATCHY TITLE** and add a **SUBTITLE** to clarify.

Diaz 1

Robin Diaz
Professor Dungan
DEVW 0330-043
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The McKinney-Vento Act Fails to Help Homeless Students

According to the Coalition for the Homeless, there are approximately 1.5 million homeless children in the United States. Once big question related to homelessness is what

Student's Name

Instructor's Name

Course Name & Number

Date

Do Concealed Handguns Belong on College Campuses?

In 1995 concealed carry became legal in Texas. This new law allowed individuals with a concealed handgun license to carry their concealed handgun in restaurants, stores, and other public places. There are restrictions. They are not permitted to carry their handgun in schools, federal buildings, public sporting events, bars, racetracks, and where businesses post a sign

Steve Madden

Instructor's Name

Course Name & Number

Date

Boy on a Bike:
How a Rwandan Teen Overcame a Legacy of Genocide

He works with the energy and intensity, if not the skill, of a mechanic twice his age. He keeps his head down, focusing on his task, talking to himself—threading greased pedals onto one of 120 sturdy black bikes we're here to build and donate to a Rwandan charity so people can ride to work, to school, to a well with clean water. He looks to be the same age as my third-grade

Brainstorming the Essay Title

The next time you have to write a title, brainstorm for five minutes. List every title that comes to mind. Don't be critical. Just have fun jotting down whatever comes to mind. Here's a brainstorming list for a persuasive essay on why peer grading should be banned.

peer grading: does it work?
peer grading is disastrous
does peer grading work?
stop peer grading now
squash peer grading
should Johnny grade my test?

is peer grading a responsible act?
peer grading violates students' rights
how effective is peer grading?
is peer grading effective?
Prohibit, bar, outlaw, veto, forbid, eliminate
peer grading

Two Essay Title DON'Ts

1. DO NOT use the topic of the essay by itself.

All of the titles below just state the topic of the essay. Using the topic by itself does not provide sufficient information to the readers.

McKinney-Vento Act

Concealed Carry

Rwandan Teen

2. DO NOT use the assignment name as the title.

Essay One

Persuasive Essay

Practice Exercises

1. Go to the library and flip through some magazines, or go online and visit the news section of Google, Yahoo, or Bing. Your goal is to find three article titles for each strategy: key words, a question, and a catchy title followed by an informative subtitle.
2. Complete a brainstorming list for the title of your next essay.
3. Create a set of index cards to study for the test over writing an essay title. Here's a link to a free online flash card maker: <http://www.kitzkikz.com/flashcards/>

Here's a screenshot of what the index cards look like:

<p>The essay title is like a _____.</p>	<p>billboard because it makes an announcement.</p>
<p>The essay title performs what three jobs?</p>	<p>informs, engages, sets the tone</p>
<p>List 3 strategies for writing an essay title.</p>	<p>use key words, ask a question, start with a catchy title and add a subtitle to inform</p>
<p>List two don'ts for writing an essay title.</p>	<p>don't use the topic alone; don't use the assignment name (Essay One)</p>