

The **DO**'s and **DO NOT**'s of Writing an Essay

DO NOT use first or second person pronouns unless the assignment specifies.

DO use third person pronouns instead.

<i>First person</i>	<i>Second person</i>	<i>Third person</i>
I/we/us/our	you/yours	he/she/they

DO NOT use contractions in formal writing.

DO use the long form instead.

<i>Contracted Form</i>	<i>Long Form</i>
don't/won't/can't	do not/will not/cannot
I'm/I'd/I'll	I am/I would/I will
she's/he's/it's	she is/he is/it is
shouldn't/wouldn't/couldn't	should not/would not/could not

DO NOT use slang terms, casual/ambiguous language, or wordy phrases.

okay	jack of all trades	with the exception of	being that
awesome	due to the fact	it/something/thing	know the ropes
in order to	gonna	very/really	y'all

DO NOT use commas or apostrophes unless you know the rule for it.

DO have a clear, arguable thesis.

DO use precise language and give specific examples as evidence.

DO follow the AXES paragraph and relate all evidence back to the thesis.

DO cite all sources so as to avoid accidental plagiarism.

DO italicize book titles and use quotation marks for short works such as article titles.