

Directive words are the words that give instructions about the way a task (for instance, writing a piece of work) should be done and, for example, often appear in essay titles you need to write for. They are there to ensure that you approach the task in the right way and help you to decide upon the type of information you need to include and how to present this in your written submission.

Soe main directive words include:

<b>Analyse</b>	Describe the main ideas in depth, showing why they are important and how they are connected.
<b>Assess</b>	Discuss the strong and weak points of the subject. Make your own conclusion.
<b>Compare and Contrast</b>	Write about the similarities and differences in the subject matter.
<b>Debate</b>	Present the evidence for and against a particular point.
<b>Define</b>	Give clear concise meanings. State limitations of the definition.
<b>Describe</b>	Give the main features or characteristics of something or write about the main events or stages in a process.
<b>Discuss</b>	Write about the subject in detail, giving points for and against, advantages and disadvantages. Give a balanced conclusion.
<b>Evaluate</b>	Give your opinion of the importance, usefulness, accuracy and strength of the information. Include good and bad points, backed up with theories and references.
<b>Explain</b>	State clearly how and why you think something happens or why it's the way it is.
<b>Explore</b>	Investigate a concept, idea or issue and show why there might be debate.
<b>Illustrate</b>	Use specific examples to make clear points.
<b>Interpret</b>	Explain the underlying meaning and give your own judgement.
<b>Justify</b>	Give reasons for decisions or conclusions and support these with evidence.
<b>Outline / Summarise</b>	Give an overview of the main ideas and points, but do not go into too much detail.
<b>Review</b>	Examine the subject critically and come to a view.
<b>To what extent</b>	Consider how far something is valid or accurate and the ways in which it is not proven and/or supported by evidence.