

# Four Phased Process-Based Essay Assignment

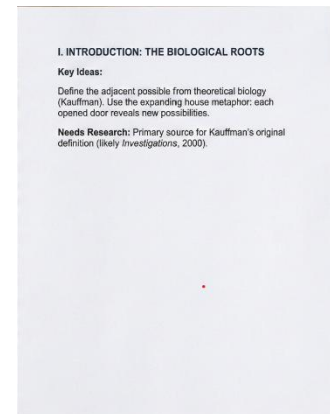
This assignment values *how* you develop your thinking as much as the final essay. You will document planning, research, reflection, and evaluation.

## Phase 1 – The Blueprint (200 words)

Create a structural plan for your essay that includes:

- Your understanding of the essay question
- A Table of Contents, placing each heading on a new page. Below the heading, include brief notes on:
  - Key ideas
  - What still needs to be researched
- Optional: Extra details or quotes at the end of the document. These are excluded from the word count.

**Focus:** Direction and structure. Do not use full sentences.



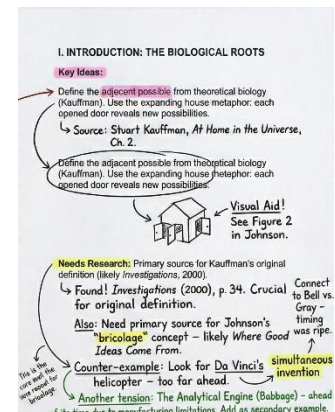
Example Phase 1 Section

## Phase 2 – Layered Research & Ideas (10-15 substantial annotations)

By using either an annotated PDF, a printout, a word processor, or digital whiteboard, build directly on your Blueprint by:

- Adding sources, quotations, data, and visuals
- Briefly explaining the relevance of each source
- Comparing and contrasting ideas by grouping ideas and identifying patterns, conflicts, or gaps

**Focus:** Integrating ideas and sources to make meaning; messy.



Example Phase 2 Section

## Phase 3 – Reflection on Thinking (300 words)

Reflect on your process:

- How has your initial blueprint evolved?
- What key sources or ideas most influenced you?
- Which concepts build momentum, and which cause friction?

**Focus:** Awareness of your thinking and writing decisions. Full sentences.

## Phase 4 – Final Essay (1200 words) + Self-Assessment (100 words)

1. Final essay
2. Self-assessment with the marking rubric including a grade and rationale

**Focus:** Quality, accountability, and evaluative judgment. Full sentences.

## Rubric

	<b>Needs Improvement (1)</b>	<b>Developing (2)</b>	<b>Proficient (3)</b>	<b>Exemplary (4)</b>
<b>Blueprint (15%)</b>	Plan is missing or entirely unclear/unmanageable. No discernible structure or outline.	Plan is vague or lacks key details; goal is unclear. Basic outline is provided, but key parts are missing.	Presents a clear, mostly feasible plan with a defined goal. Outlines most major sections and key arguments.	Presents a highly detailed, logical, and feasible plan with a clear goal. Fully outlines all major sections and required resources.
<b>Layered Research &amp; Ideas (25%)</b>	Uses minimal or non-academic sources. Research is copied or irrelevant to the topic.	Sources are limited or lack strong credibility/relevance. Research is summarized, not integrated into the argument.	Uses relevant and credible sources; shows good scope and depth. Research is integrated logically to support arguments.	Uses a wide range of highly relevant, academic, and complex sources. Research is synthesized to form original, insightful conclusions.
<b>Reflection on Thinking (10%)</b>	Reflection is missing or provides minimal, vague comments. Fails to link the process to the final product.	Reflection is simple summary of actions, not true analysis. Connections between the plan and result are vague.	Reflects honestly on key successes and challenges faced. Identifies how the plan evolved based on new information.	Provides deep, honest analysis of the thinking process and specific learning moments. Clearly explains how and why the original plan changed.
<b>Final Essay (40%)</b>	Thesis is missing or confusing; argument is unsupported. Lacks clear organization; hard to follow. Errors are pervasive; difficult to read.	Thesis is weak or general; support is inconsistent. Structure is choppy or awkward; some transitions are missing. Frequent errors distract from the main points.	Thesis is clear and well-supported by evidence. Structure is logical, with good paragraphs and transitions. Writing is clear with only minor errors that don't distract.	Thesis is complex and insightful, consistently proven. Structure is flawless, guiding the reader easily. Writing is polished, sophisticated, and perfect in mechanics.
<b>Self-assessment (10%)</b>	No self-assessment provided, or it is entirely unjustified. Assessment is brief and incomplete.	Self-assessment is unrealistic or lacks strong justification. Only covers some components; justification is missing.	Self-assessment is mostly accurate and provides fair justification. Addresses all major components of the assignment.	Self-assessment perfectly aligns with the instructor's score, with excellent justification. Addresses all components of the assignment thoroughly.