Introduction – thesis statement / controlling idea. Clear position.

Limit the history in the opening section to leave room for discussion of your opinion. I have exactly the same access to material as you. The only thing I don’t have access to – that I very much want to find out about – is what is in your mind.

All the material should clearly link to the thesis statement.

Avoid rhetorical questions.

Avoid emotive language.

Hedge and boost appropriately.

The conclusion should contribute but do not introduce new, unqualified material.

(Look at what other students have done in essays on the MICUSP website)

**Premise** – innate, instinctive, personal experience, community - opinion

**Reason** – general areas of concern in society, community, history that contributed to forming opinion

**Evidence** – concrete facts, actual occurrences that support the reasons

Slow motion reading – when you question your text as a reader might, do you supply all the answers? Do you raise more questions than you answer? This is a question of sufficiency and is one of the most difficult areas of writing you will deal with.

Can you explain the reason why your main issues are presented in the order the reader receives them?

Is the progression through your chosen material explicitly clear? (be aware of factitious cohesion)

Could you explain each paragraph to a twelve year old child easily?