Understanding what the marker is looking for

Your assignments will usually have **marking criteria** (also called a marking **rubric**) to help you understand what the marker will be looking for. This will help you know what to focus your attention on. You should find the marking criteria in your Learning Guide, near the assignment instructions. If they are not there, check your vUWS site, or ask your tutor.

**Look at the weighting for each criterion.**

- Which area is worth the most? Circle it.
- How confident are you in that area?
- What could you do to increase your confidence in the areas you are less confident in?
- Make sure you pay more attention to the criteria that have higher weighting.

**Does the criterion start with a verb phrase?**

- Look for the **action** words, e.g. explains, discusses, illustrates, critiques, defines. Highlight them.
- Look for the **quality** words or phrases that tell you ‘how’, e.g. critically, at a basic level, inadequately. Highlight them in a different colour.
- Do you know what the quality words mean for this assignment? If not, ask your tutor or lecturer.

**Does the criterion start with a noun phrase?**

- Look for the **thing** words that show what feature the marker will be looking for, e.g. use of evidence, errors in spelling..., errors in reference list. Highlight them.
- Look for **measuring or frequency** words, e.g. some, consistent, no, frequent, occasional. Highlight them in a different colour.
- Look for **quality** words and phrases, e.g. minor, major, from a range of scholarly sources, from a restricted range of sources. Highlight them in a different colour.

**HINT:** you could add your name at the start and it would make a proper sentence, e.g. ‘Danielle critically discusses...’

**Questions to ask**

- Do you define, explain, or discuss? What would be the difference between these? (HINT: visit Study Smart Assignment Help: Getting Started.)
- Do you have to illustrate points with examples? (HINT: visit Study Smart Assignment Help: Writing and select ‘Using sources’.)
- How will you know whether the evidence you have provided is scholarly? (HINT: visit Study Smart Assignment Help: Researching and reading.)
- What will you need to do to test whether you have done something ‘consistently’, ‘occasionally’, or not at all?
- How will you know whether you have made errors? What steps could you take? What resources or tools could you use? (HINT: visit Study Smart Assignment Help: Finishing and submitting and Library Guide: Referencing and citation.)
Resources to help you
→ Ask a Study Smart Officer for help with understanding the marking criteria
→ Study Smart website
  o Assignment Help: Getting Started
  o Assignment Help: Researching and reading
  o Assignment Help: Writing > Using sources
  o Assignment Help: Finishing and submitting
→ Library website
  o Library Guide: Referencing and citation
→ Library YouTube channel (Western Sydney U Lib)
  o Evaluate resources using APPEAL