

## Tips for writing a good essay title

An essay title is supposed to predict the content of the essay. Moreover, a good title can catch the reader's interest and somehow reflect author's attitude toward the given subject. Given the functions of a good essay title, it's preferable to choose a specific and meaningful title, not a more label<sup>1</sup>.

- **Write your essay first. Then write your essay title.**

Student writers may waste a lot of time trying to dream up a great title before they even write their essay. However, it's much easier to write the essay first and then think of a creative title.

- **Essay titles should be concise and to the point**

In general, titles should be as concise as possible so that the meaning isn't lost in excessive wordiness. There isn't exact number of words for the perfect essay title, rather the ideas should be presented as sufficiently as possible.

- **Essay titles shouldn't be too general.**

The essay titles should be specific enough to cover what the given essay is exactly about. For example, if the title of the essay is "Monkey Behavior", it tells us nothing about the kind of monkey, the particular behavior, or really anything else to attract the reader. Moreover, the title lacks some important details about the type of behavior, type of monkeys, etc.

However, we need to be more specific and add some more details about our analytical essay. Readers can conjecture that sugar would have some effect on monkey behavior since the "behavior" is presumably what was observed and is the location from where the researcher drew his conclusions. The title below can be a good academic title:

### **"Sugar Stimulates Intensity of Tail-Twitch Social Behavior in Panamanian Monkeys"<sup>2</sup>.**

Another useful tip would be making up until 20 or 30 titles. And from that list trying to combine some of the wordings and having a new title.

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Writing. University of Minnesota. Writing an effective title. Retrieved 09.14.13, from <http://writing.umn.edu/sws/assets/pdf/quicktips/titles.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> University of Michigan. How do I write a great title for my academic essay? Retrieved 09.26.13, from <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/>