

# Key Essay Terms

**Analyze:** to break into parts and explain the parts

**Assess:** to weigh the evidence and make a judgment

**Categorize:** Place items under headings that are given to you or you create

**Cause/Effect:** the beginning; the result

**Chronological:** events put in the order they happened

**Clarify:** to make clear

**Compare:** show how two things are alike

**Contrast:** show how two things are different

**Describe:** to tell how something looks or how it happened; present a picture

**Discuss:** to tell about the main points and important details

**Define:** to give the meaning

**Diagram:** to make a drawing of something and label its parts

**Distinguish:** to tell how something is different from others similar to it

**Enumerate:** to make a list

**Evaluate:** to give your opinion of what is important; discuss its good and bad points; discuss its strengths and weaknesses

**Explain:** to give facts that make clear

**Extent:** how much, to what degree

**Fact:** something that can be proven to be true

**Identify:** to name and explain

**Illustrate:** to give examples

**Infer:** to draw a conclusion based on fact

**Interpret:** to offer an explanation

**Justify:** to give reasons and evidence to support your thinking

**Opinion:** belief based on what a person thinks or feels

**Prove:** use facts to show something is true

**Question:** to ask

**Reflect:** to think about

**Relate:** to show how things are alike or connected

**Sequence:** to put in correct order

**State:** to give the main points or reasons

**Summarize:** to briefly cover the main points

**Synthesize:** to combine parts or pieces of an idea, situation or event

**Trace:** to tell about the progress or growth

**Validity:** how accurate something is