**Major Writing Assignment 2: An Opinion Essay**

For this major writing assignment, we kindly ask you to write an opinion essay with round about 500 words. Although opinion essays generally share some aspects of “for and against” or “persuasive” essays, with some noticeable distinctions in organization and content they differ from them. In writing opinion essay, you are mostly focusing upon your opinions with reasons and examples about a particular controversial topic. You do include opposing viewpoints, as in “for and against” or “persuasive” essays; yet, they make up of only 1/3 of your body paragraphs.

We leave the decision about what to write in the essay at your own discretion. You can write on the topic that is of importance to you in order to express your own opinions in this regard. Albeit, you can still opt for the topic that we suggested: *“Students should acquire transferable skills rather than knowledge of specific sphere at universities”.* Notice that students who write their opinion essay with amazing topics that matter most of us will score bonus points!

**Grading criteria**

An excellent opinion essay will meet the following criteria, showing that you can:

* (if applicable), craft an appropriate title for the topic that you are concerned about;
* compose an introductory paragraph, in which you state the topic and your own opinion;
* write main body that consist of 2 or more paragraphs that each present a separate viewpoint supported by your own reasons;
* include another paragraph in the body that gives the opposing viewpoint and reasons;
* include a conclusion in which you restate your own opinion using different words;
* write well-developed paragraphs that have paragraph unity and utilize linking words throughout your composition;
* make an effective use of academic vocabulary that is suitable for the context;