

Table: How to Write the Essay

Introduction

Here is the test question again:

The table below shows the estimated literacy rates by region and gender for 2000 to 2004.

Here is an example of the first sentence paraphrased with an overview:

The table displays estimated literacy rates for men and women in five regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, between the years 2000 and 2004. Overall, it can be seen that in general, the average literacy rates for regions with developed nations are higher than those with developing countries.

Main Body Paragraphs

Identify the main features by looking for the highest and lowest values, any notable differences, and the most obvious comparisons or trends.

Here are examples of the essay planning notes:

Main feature 1: Europe has the highest literacy rates (almost 99%), and it's almost equal between men and women.

Main feature 2: The Americas and Oceania can be grouped together as the second highest (just above 93%), and the percentages are similar for both men and women.

Main feature 3: Africa has the lowest overall rates at only 62.5 %; this pattern also applies to both genders.

Main feature 4: Both Asia and Africa have significant differences in rates between men and women.

Now, with the use of the notes, begin to write full sentences, adding more detail using the data (in this case, percentages) given in the table. Separate the four main features into 2 or 3 body paragraphs depending on sentence length or ability to group data together.

Here are the examples:

According to the table, Europe has the highest literacy rates, reaching almost 99%. There is effectively no difference in literacy rates between European men and women. In Oceania and the Americas, the percentages for both men and women are very similar. In both regions, over 93% of the population is literate, giving them the second-highest proportions overall.

The lowest literacy rates are found in Africa, with an overall rate of only 62.5%. This pattern of lowest rates also applies to both genders within the population. In both Asia and Africa, there are considerable differences in literacy rates between men and women. In Asia, less than three-quarters of women are literate (72.5%), whereas the figure for Asian men is 13% higher. In Africa, the gap is even higher, with only about 54% of all African women being literate and around 72% of African men being able to read and write.

The final combined essay reads as follows:

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(Word count: 188)