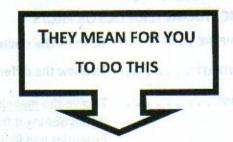
DEFINITIONS OF INSTRUCTORS' TERMS (VERBS) (FOR WRITING ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS)





THESE VERBS ASK FOR EVERTHING

- COMMENT To explain, illustrate, or criticize the meaning or significance of a subject
- DESCRIBE To give either a detailed or a graphic account of a subject
- To investigate a subject by argument, going into the pros and cons
- REVIEW To survey and critically examine a subject either summary, analysis, or criticism
- STATE To describe a subject in precise terms or to reproduce a definition exactly

II. THESE VERBS ASK FOR MAIN IDEAS

- ANALYZE To break the subject into the main ideas that comprise it
- ENUMERATE To present a list of the main ideas comprising the whole of the subject
- LIST Same as enumerate above
- TABULATE To organize the main ideas into a scheme of headings as a table of contents;
 sometimes to form into a table, e.g., a record of speed reading progress
- TRACE To follow the development of history of your subject from the point of its
 origin
- SUMMARIZE To make a brief, concise account of the main ideas of a theme, concept, principle, development, or procedure while omitting details and examples
- Outline To summarize in a series of headings and subheadings as Theme, main ideas, supporting subordinate ideas—often a two-stage outline omitting details.

WHEN INSTRUCTORS
ASK YOU TO DO THIS



THESE VERBS ASK F FOR SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS OR FACTS

- COMPARE To show the similarities and differences of two or more subjects
- CONTRAST To show the difference of two or more subjects
- DEFINE To give the <u>meaning</u> of a word by fitting it into a general category and then distinguishing it from closely related subjects, sometimes developed by examples and illustrations
- DEMONSTRATE To prove or explain by use of examples
- DIAGRAM To describe with graphs, sketches, etc.
- EXPLAIN To account for by clearly stating and interpreting the details around a thing to make clear its character, causes, results, implications, etc.
- FORMULATE To define in the form of a systematic statement
- ILLUSTRATE To clarify by giving examples, comparisons, analogies, or by giving figures or diagrams
- PROVE To demonstrate validity by test, argument, or evidence
- RELATE To establish the connection between one thing and another

IV. THESE VERBS ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORTED OPINION

- CHOOSE Generally, make a choice between one of several interpretations, explanations, etc.
- CRITICIZE Give your judgment on the merit of a theory or opinion of the truth of facts by
 discussing their source and background . . . or of the truth, beauty, or
 goodness of a thing. <u>Criticize</u> doesn't necessarily mean a "negative attack."
- EVALUATE To appraise or estimate the worth, value, usefulness, truth, beauty, goodness, etc. , of something—to some extent on the basis of personal opinion
- INTERPRET To expound the meaning of something; to make it clear and explicit, and to evaluate it in terms of your own knowledge and belief
- JUSTIFY To give good grounds for your decisions or conclusions (sometimes, however, your instructor's decisions or conclusions)
- SELECT See choose above