

NEWNHAM COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF

The Woolf Essay Prize 2012

Hints and Tips for Students

- Carefully reading Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* will help, and might even be enjoyable. You are encouraged to refer to any aspects of the text you find relevant to the question you choose, but there is no obligation to make *A Room of One's Own* the main focus of your essay (unless you want to!).
- Using specific examples in your essay will help your cause; trying to avoid using specific examples will not.
- We are not necessarily expecting the same kind of essay as you might write for an A Level exam or piece of coursework, and we will not be judging it according to 'Assessment Objectives' or rigid criteria. Hopefully you will enjoy writing an academic essay in the way that best suits you. Primarily, we are looking for originality and clarity of thought, a logical argument, excellent written communication, and solid evidence of reading and thinking far outside your school syllabus(es).
- The Woolf Essay Prize is deliberately wide-ranging, allowing you to write about literature, history, politics, society, culture, the arts, and/or anything else you feel is directly relevant to the question you choose. It is up to you to decide your focus, in order to answer the question in the way you find most interesting and relevant.
- For those of you interested in the historical, political, economic and/or sociological angles, you might like to take a look at the 'Resources' on The Fawcett Society website (www.fawcettsociety.org.uk). Their "Document Library," particularly, has a whole wealth of information you might find interesting – though some of it is a little dense. This is by no means the only resource available, however, so please don't feel tied to it. There is also a "Useful Links" section on the Fawcett Society Resources page, which will take you to all kinds of interesting websites. (Please note that Newnham College is not responsible for the content of any external websites, and does not necessarily hold or endorse any of the views expressed there).
- The official requirements:
 - You must acknowledge and cite all sources you refer to or get ideas from, including websites and magazines.
 - Please type your essay in an easily readable font (like this one, in size 11 or 12).
 - The essay should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words (including footnotes and captions of any pictures/diagrams you wish to include, but excluding the bibliography).
 - Please provide a bibliography, detailing the sources you have referred to or drawn from.
 - Your essay must be submitted by your school on your behalf, with a completed cover sheet signed by a senior teacher.
 - Please provide us with a current, accurate, and clearly written email address on the cover sheet.
 - The deadline is **Tuesday 24th April 2012**.