

**Exploring First-Year University Students' Challenges with
Coherence Writing Strategies in Essay Writing in a
South African University**

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KEYWORDS Academic Writing. Coherence Discourse. Process Approach. Product Approach. English Second Language

ABSTRACT The study sought to explore the challenges that first-year student teachers experience in relation to coherence in writing essays in English in a South African university. A purposeful sample of 244 first-year students was used in this study. The respondents consisted of both males and females. Using a rubric, the researchers analyzed the students' written argumentative essays in English. The results revealed that the students were experiencing challenges related to writing an introduction, a thesis statement, topic sentences, supporting sentences and conclusion. The recommendations were made in order to eliminate these challenges.