

**The Fault is not in Students: But in the Programmes and the
Teaching Open Distance Learning Institutions Provide:
A Case of Adult Basic Education and Training Students**

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ABSTRACT The aim of the paper was to find out why students of Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) are, in their majority, unable to construct an acceptable essay assignment. The researchers examined over a thousand assignments to determine why students scored poorly in essay questions which, otherwise, allow them space to express themselves to the best of their ability. The paper used the qualitative approach to unravel the matter. The content analysis method served as the bedrock of the research approach. From the examined assignments it was found out that students failed to write down the followings: the given questions in words; an introduction, headings, sub-headings, conclusion, bibliography and a table of contents. This observation made the researchers to assess many modules to determine where the fault was. Shockingly, all the evaluated modules and books consulted did not teach the students how to write essay assignments.