Understand your question

Parts of an assignment question:

**TASK WORDS**
- How to write eg, discuss, argue etc.

**SUBJECT MATTER**
- What you should be writing about

**LIMITING WORDS**
- May narrow or change the focus of your answer. (Important – they stop you from including irrelevant info)

**TIP**
- Assignments that ask you to outline or describe are assessing your understanding of the topic. You must express facts clearly and precisely, using examples to illuminate them.

---

**Compare acute and chronic pain in terms of pathophysiology and treatment.**

- Important limiting phrase – focus ONLY on these things. Use them as a lens to highlight the differences between acute and chronic pain.

---

**With reference to any particular example enzyme, outline the key structural and functional properties of its active site**

- Important limiting phrase – focus your answer on a specific example. Use this example to help demonstrate your understanding.

- Factual description is needed. You must demonstrate your knowledge and understanding.

---
There is no convincing evidence for the existence of life outside of our solar system

To what extent can nuclear power provide a solution to environmental issues?

Discuss the issue of patient autonomy in relation to at least one case study

TIP
Assignment titles that are not actually a question are often simply asking ‘how true is this statement?’ You must present reasons it could be true and reasons it might not be, supported by evidence and recognising the complexity of the statement.

TIP
If an assignment is asking a direct question, make sure your essay answers it! Address it directly in the introduction, make sure each paragraph contributes something towards your response to it, and reinforce your response in your conclusion.

TIP
Assignments that ask you to discuss in relation to a case study, or to a placement or own experience, usually want to see a clear link between theory and practice (reality).