**Decode Essay Questions**

Look carefully at the verbs used in essay questions. This chart offers some hints about how to construct your answer.

When the questions wants to ………………..then you

* COMPARE identify **similarities** between two concepts
* CONTRAST distinguish important **differences** between two concepts
* DESCRIBE provide sufficient **details to establish key ideas** in a concept develop a new

strategy to accomplish a goal

* EXPLAIN clarify the **meaning of a concept** through detail or example
* EVALUATE make a well-reasoned **judgment** about value or worth
* IDENTIFY **designate** the key elements involved
* INTERPRET offer your distinctive **point of view** about concept's meaning
* VALIDATE/ create your argument using examples or reasoning to **prove/disprove** a statement

REFUTE

* RELATE draw **connections** among ideas
* SUMMARIZE briefly **identify** the most critical ideas