

How To Write An Essay

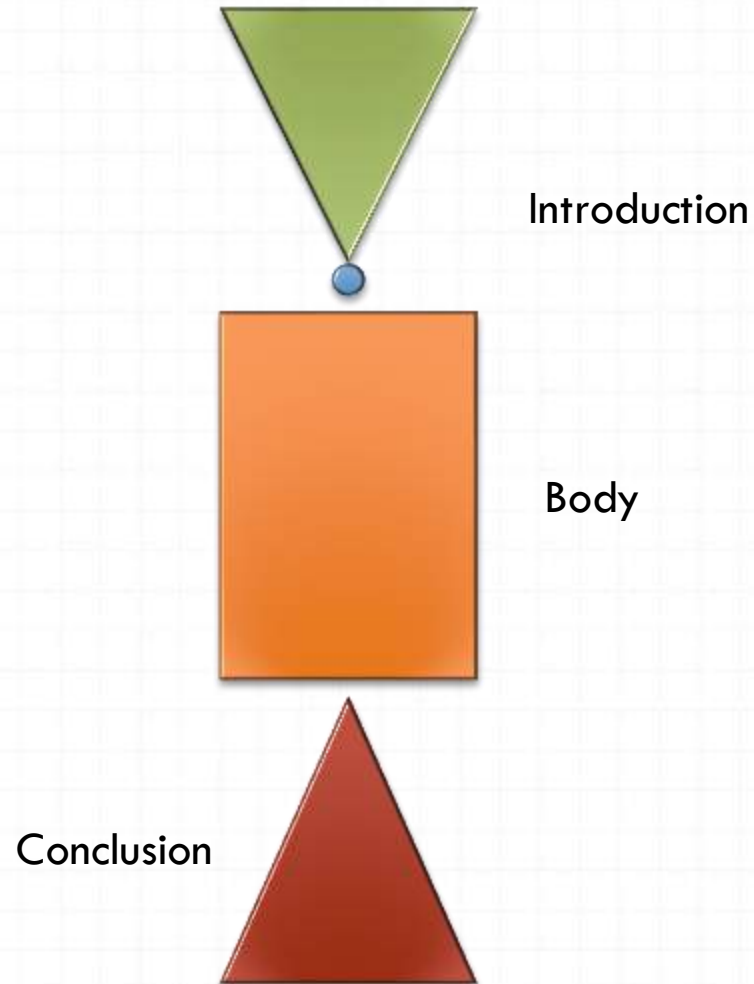
What is an essay?

o Essay Writing: The word has been taken from French which means 'to try' or 'to attempt'. An essay is a written exposition or elaboration of your views on a particular topic, subject or issue. Essays oblige you to acquire, analyse and criticize information on your own.

What is an essay?

- o An essay must be well structured and presented in a way that the reader finds it easy to follow. It must look tidy and should not present any obstacles to the reader. The material should be organized in such a way so that it flows from one area, sub-section or argument to the next in a logical order.

Essay Format



Essay Format

o **Introduction:** An essay is an exploration of an idea which needs to be defined before it is developed. The introduction is the place where the essay has to make a good impression, informing the reader what is to come and encouraging him or her to read further.

Introduction

- o First part of an essay
- o Try to capture the reader's attention

Introduction Format

- o 1. Attention getter
- o 2. State your problem
- o 3. Bridge or transition sentences

Ways to Start Your Introduction

○ Strategy

- Provide some **interesting background** about the topic in the form of a general statement
- Use a thought-provoking **quotation**
- Ask a **question** about your topic
- State a **surprising fact** or a **puzzling statement**
- Start with a **short story**

Ways to Start Your Introduction

- Strategy

- State a **common misconception**

- Describe a **problem**

- Show how the topic is related to the **reader's experience**

Essay Format

*o***Body:** Usually the easiest part of the essay to write, where you turn your notes into paragraphs to support your central thesis, according to the particular method of organization that you decided. The topic must be explained, described or argued.

The Body

- o The body is a set of paragraphs that develop the ideas expressed in the logical manner.
 - o Each main idea becomes the main idea sentence for a body paragraph.
 - o Arrange the main ideas in logical order (time, place, importance)
 - o Plan out each body paragraph by listing major details that support each main idea
 - o Order the details within each paragraph in a logical way. Each body paragraph may end with a concluding sentence.

Essay Format

o Conclusion: The conclusion should match the introduction. It should be a restatement of your essay.

Conclusion

- Leave the reader thinking about your topic.
Leave an impression on them!
- No new information in conclusion
- Be sure to recap your ideas
- Should follow logically from the body of the essay

The Writing Stage

- o After planning and arranging your main ideas and major details, begin writing your body paragraphs.
- o The number of paragraphs depends on the topic's complexity, inclusiveness, and your purpose for writing.
- o Usually a short essay contains 3 to 5 body paragraphs, plus an introduction and conclusion
- o Remember to use signal words to make smooth transitions between sentences and paragraphs.

Signal/Transition Words

- For examples: For example, for instance, to illustrate
- For organization or chronological order: The six steps are..., next, finally first, secondly, third
- For additional points: Furthermore, in addition, also, moreover
- For opposing ideas: On the other hand, in contrast, although, however
- For similar ideas: Likewise, similarly, in comparison

Signal/Transition Words

- For exceptions: However, nevertheless, but, yet, still
- For emphasis: Above all, finally, more importantly
- For understanding: In other words, in essence, briefly
- For summarizing: In conclusion, to sum up, for these reasons, in a nutshell
- For exams: Remember this, this is important, this could be on the test

Guidelines for writing an Essay:

- Choose the topic carefully.
- Draft an outline.
- Give the essay an apt (proper) beginning.
- Follow the basic principle of paragraph writing.
- Conclusion should be logical.

Guidelines for writing an Essay:

- Use simple English.
- Find time to revise.
- Avoid jargons, slangs or vulgar expressions.
- Do not repeat the same word too many times.
- Use active voice
- Stick to the word limit.
- It is most commonly written in first or third person.

Types of Essay:

- Analytical essay: It addresses an issue and employs a critical approach.
- Argumentative essay: argument you present in your support.
- Cause and effect essay

Types of Essay:

- Classification essay: rank the group of objects.
- Comparison and contrast essay.
- Definition essay: explain the word beyond dictionary meaning.
- Descriptive essay: to describe something.

Types of Essay:

- Expository essay: to present someone else's point of view without expressing your personal opinion.
- Narrative essay: to narrate something.
- Research essay.

Sample Essay Question 1

In many countries around the world young people decide to leave their parents' home once they finish school. They start living on their own or sharing a home with friends. Is this a positive or a negative development? Give reasons for your answer and include relevant examples.

Sample Essay Question 2

Some people believe that excessive use of modern technologies, such as computers and smartphones, is negatively affecting the reading and writing skills of our young people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Thank you....