



A small essay and its types

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There are dozens of different types of essays, we are going to focus on the following seven:

1. Narrative Essays: Tell a Story
2. Descriptive Essays: Paint a Picture
3. Expository Essays: Give just the Facts
4. Persuasive Essays: Convince Me
5. Analytical Essays: Analyze information and argue a point
6. Compare/Contrast: Explain a distinct similarity/difference
7. Informative Essay: Reveal Factual Information



- The Narrative Essay

The first important thing to remember about a narrative essay is that it tells a story. The author may write about an experience or event from his or her past, a recent or an ongoing experience or event, or something that happened to some body else, such as a parent or a grandparent.

- The second important thing about a narrative essay is that the story should have a point.
- In the final paragraph of the essay, the author reflects on the larger meaning or importance of the experience described. The author concludes that learning to swim has helped her to feel more confident about herself in other new situations. The idea that self-confidence comes from conquering your fears is something that all people can relate to. This is the point of the story.



The Descriptive Essay

- A cousin of the narrative essay, a descriptive essay paints a picture with words. A writer might describe a person, place, object, or even memory of special significance. The descriptive essay strives to communicate a deeper meaning through the description.

In a descriptive essay, the writer should show, not tell, through the use of colorful words and sensory details. The best descriptive essays appeal to the reader's emotions.





The Expository Essay

- The expository essay is an informative piece of writing that presents a balanced analysis of a topic. In an expository essay, the writer explains or defines a quote or passage, using facts, statistics, and examples ..



- Expository writing encompasses a wide range of essay variations, such as the comparison and contrast essay, the cause and effect essay, and the "how to" or process essay. Because expository essays are based on facts and not personal feelings, writers don't reveal their emotions or write in the first person



The Persuasive Essay.

- While like an expository essay in its presentation of facts, the goal of the persuasive essay is to convince the reader to accept the writer's point of view or recommendation. The writer must build a case using facts and logic, as well as examples, expert opinion, and sound reasoning.



- The writer should present all sides of the argument, but must be able to communicate clearly why his/her position is correct..
- Writing a persuasive essay is like being a lawyer arguing a case before a jury. The writer takes a stand on an issue-either "for" or "against"-and builds the strongest possible argument to win over the reader.



The Analytical Essay

- If you're writing an analytical essay about a work of fiction, you could focus your argument on what motivates a specific character or group of characters. Or, you could argue why a certain line or paragraph is central to the work as a whole.
- If you're writing about a historical event, try focusing on the forces that contributed to what happened..
- If you're writing about scientific research or findings, follow the scientific method to analyze your results.

- Ask yourself "What am I trying to prove?" The answer should be in your thesis. If not, go back and fix it.
- One of the most critical elements of an analytical essay is the breakdown of hidden arguments. This is done by the writer carefully setting up the assumptions and following the thought process through to a logical conclusion.

The Compare/Contrast Essay

A comparison essay is an essay in which you emphasize the similarities and a contrast essay is an essay in which you emphasize the differences. You can have an essay that is both comparison and contrast.





There are two ways to write a compare/contrast essay

- There are two different ways to organize this type of essay, one is called block arrangement of ideas; the other is called point-by-point or alternating arrangement of ideas.
- Suppose you are interested in showing the differences between vacationing in the mountains and vacationing at the beach. One way to arrange your material is to use the block arrangement which is to write about vacationing in the mountains in one paragraph and vacationing at the beach in the next. If you mention a particular point in the mountains paragraph, you must mention the same point in the beach paragraph, and in the same order.



The Informative Essay.

- The purpose of an informative essay is to inform and educate the readers about topics that they may not know. An informative essay educates an idea, reveals a fact, or explains a process. For an informative essay, you have to think as a reader in order to craft your paper in way that can best convey a message.

- After you gather your information from an outside source, you will organize the information in to separate paragraphs, each focusing on a single point. Considering the main point of a paragraph, write down the information pertaining to that point.
- For example, if you are writing about the causes of World War II, you could consider points such as Imperialism, Fascism and Nationalism. To expand a point, you can describe it further in the outline.



The Writing Process



First, you need a topic

- You will be given a "prompt" to write about.
- Sometimes you will be given a choice of prompts.
- You will also be told how much time you have and how long your essay needs to be.

Next, what will you do with your topic?



- You need to think it over and decide:
- **Purpose:** Why am I writing this? Which type of essay is it? What is the overall task?
- **Audience:** Who am I writing this for? Most of the time you are writing for your English teacher
- **Format:** What structure should my essay have? You are usually writing the standard 5 paragraph essay, unless otherwise specified.



Now, you have to plan your essay

- **Prewriting:** What ideas do I have? Now you have to come up with some ideas by brainstorming, clustering, or free writing. You can use either a list or a web.
- **Organizing:** What order do I put my ideas in? You can put your ideas in order like top to bottom, or chronological order as in a time line, or in order of importance with the most important idea last so the reader is left with your strongest idea.



- You will then take all of your ideas and categorize them. Most of the time you will come up with 3 main categories that will serve as your 3 body paragraphs..
- You will then write an outline to help you stay organized..
- You will then take the outline and write your first draft.

Now you are ready to write!

- **First draft:** Since this is the first time you are writing, it does not have to be perfect. The main thing you want to do is get your ideas on paper in the proper essay format. You can do the fine tuning in the ...
- **Revision:** Now the real writing starts. Look over your essay for errors, and also for what you can say better than before!"I am beyond writer's cramp.



And keep writing ... then submit it!



- **Final Draft:** This is where it all comes together when you get your essay to be as "good as it gets." But, before you hand it in, **proofread** it one last time to be sure it's just the way you want it to be, then submit it.

What is the structural design of my essay?



The design of the 5 paragraph essay is quite simple:

1. The **Introduction** with a strong lead-in, the reasons that support your thesis and your thesis statement telling the topic and point of the essay.
2. Your well-elaborated **first reason** with specific examples.
3. Your well-elaborated **second reason** with specific examples.
4. Your well-elaborated **third reason** with specific examples.
5. The **Conclusion** where you restate your thesis and your 3 reasons with a strong, decisive closing statement.



Thank you for your attention!