

FORMAL ESSAYS tend to take a serious, evidence-based approach while **INFORMAL ESSAYS** tend to be more relaxed and personable. The style fits the purpose and audience.

CHARACTERISTIC	MOST FORMAL ESSAYS...	MOST INFORMAL ESSAYS...
Audience	Are written for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic audiences such as other students or teachers/professors Professionals such as historians, psychologists, sociologists, and political scientists 	Are written for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general public People of certain age group, such as teens or seniors People with specific interests such as fishing or fashion
Purpose/Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present facts and information gathered through research, experiments, or observation Aim to engage readers through logical reasoning, facts, and objective audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express the writer's personal thoughts, feelings, and opinions Aim to engage readers by appealing to their senses and emotions
Subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on scholarly topics related to literature, history, and other shared knowledge and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on everyday topics related to events and experiences in the writer's life
Thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicitly state the thesis in one or two sentences Place the thesis statement in the first or second paragraph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not follow hard-and-fast rules related to thesis statements; they may not have a thesis statement; If they do, it may appear anywhere in the essay
Point-of-View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are written in third person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are written in first person
Tone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a detached, unemotional tone Feels objective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a relaxed, sometimes emotional tone Feels personal, subjective
Diction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use formal language, professional terminology Avoid slang, colloquialisms, and contractions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use relaxed, often conversational language Include slang, colloquialisms, and contracts