Montaigne's "attempts" grew out of his [commonplacing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonplacing" \o "Commonplacing).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essay" \l "cite_note-5) Inspired in particular by the works of [Plutarch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plutarch" \o "Plutarch), a translation of whose *Œuvres Morales* (*Moral works*) into French had just been published by [Jacques Amyot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Amyot" \o "Jacques Amyot), Montaigne began to compose his essays in 1572; the first edition, entitled *[Essais](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essays_(Montaigne)" \o "Essays (Montaigne))*, was published in two volumes in 1580.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essay" \l "cite_note-6) For the rest of his life, he continued revising previously published essays and composing new ones. A third volume was published posthumously; together, their over 100 examples are widely regarded as the predecessor of the modern essay. While Montaigne's philosophy was admired and copied in France, none of his most immediate disciples tried to write essays. But Montaigne, who liked to fancy that his family (the Eyquem line) was of English extraction, had spoken of the English people as his "cousins", and he was early read in England, notably by [Francis Bacon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Bacon" \o "Francis Bacon).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essay" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTEGosse1911777-7) Bacon's [essays](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essays_(Francis_Bacon)" \o "Essays (Francis Bacon)), published in book form in 1597 (only five years after the death of Montaigne, containing the first ten of his essays),[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essay" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTEGosse1911777-7) 1612, and 1625, were the first works in English that described themselves as *essays*. [Ben Jonson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Jonson" \o "Ben Jonson) first used the word *essayist* in 1609, according to the *[Oxford English Dictionary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary" \o "Oxford English Dictionary)*. Other English essayists included [Sir William Cornwallis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Cornwallis_(died_1614)" \o "William Cornwallis (died 1614)), who published essays in 1600 and 1617 that were popular at the time,[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essay" \l "cite_note-FOOTNOTEGosse1911777-7) [Robert Burton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Burton_(scholar)" \o "Robert Burton (scholar)) (1577–1641) and [Sir Thomas Browne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_Thomas_Browne" \o "Sir Thomas Browne) (1605–1682). In Italy, [Baldassare Castiglione](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baldassare_Castiglione" \o "Baldassare Castiglione) wrote about courtly manners in his essay *Il Cortigiano*. In the 17th century, the Spanish [Jesuit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesuit" \o "Jesuit) [Baltasar Gracián](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltasar_Graci%C3%A1n" \o "Baltasar Gracián) wrote about the theme of wisdom.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Essay" \l "cite_note-britannica1-8)