

## **Additional Reference Material- Types of Writing**

### **EAP Lecture - Analyzing different types of essays**

**There are primarily 5 types of academic essays**

- The expository essay
- The descriptive essay
- The narrative essay
- The compare and contrast essay
- The persuasive essay

**There are few sub categories of **Expository essays** which are as follows**

- **The cause and effect essay**
- **The Argumentative essay**
- **The comparison and contrast essay**

**An expository essay in general:**

- An informative piece of writing that presents a balanced analysis of a topic.(Presentation of facts)
  - The writer explains or defines a topic, using facts, statistics, and examples
  - Expository essays are based on facts and not personal feelings, writers don't reveal their emotions or write in the first person.
- 
- **Structure**

#### **Cause and Effect Essay- Model Answers**

This particular essay is organized as follows:

**Body 1: Causes**

**Body 2: Effects**

Of course it is also possible to have a 3 body paragraph essay. For example:

**Body 1: Causes**

**Body 2: Causes**

**Body 3: Effects**

Or:

**Body 1: Causes**

**Body 2: Effects**

**Body 3: Effects**

**Today more people are overweight than ever before. What in your opinion are the primary causes of this? What are the main effects of this epidemic?**

## **Step 1 – Generating ideas (using brainstorming techniques in process writing)**

### **Causes of obesity:**

1. inactive lifestyle (relying on cars instead of walking, fewer physical demands at work, inactive leisure activities)
2. unhealthy eating habits (eating fast-food, drinking high-calorie beverages, consuming large portions of food, eating irregularly)

### **Effects of obesity:**

1. physical health problems
2. loss of productivity
3. depressions and mental disorders

## **Step 2- Deciding the structure to organize points**

4. **Introduction**
5. **Body paragraph 1 - causes**
6. **Body paragraph 2 - effects**
7. **Conclusion**

## **Step 3- Writing**

### **Introduction**

Write your introduction in two sentences:

- Sentence 1 - paraphrase the statement (you can use ‘*nowadays/today/these days*’ to start):

*Nowadays/At Present/ In the modern day context the number of overweight people is constantly growing.*

- Sentence 2 - say what you’ll write about in your essay:

*This essay will discuss the main reasons of this epidemic and then describe the possible effects of the problem.*

### **Body paragraph 1 - causes**

- Sentence 1 - state all the main causes of obesity:

*In my opinion, the foremost causes of obesity are inactive lifestyle and unhealthy eating habits. Or*

*The foremost cases of obesity are inactive lifestyle and unhealthy eating habits*

- Sentences 2-3 - describe the first cause. Assume that your examiner has no knowledge in this area and you have to explain all the details to him.

*Today more and more people rely on cars instead of walking, have less physical demands at work and prefer inactive leisure activities. This results in burning less calories and gaining weight.*

- Sentences 4-5 - describe the second cause. Don't forget that it's useful to give examples while describing causes!

*Moreover, the problem is accentuated by the growing number of people, who eat irregularly and consume large portions of high-calorie food. For example, about 50% of the adult population in Europe with so-called disordered eating suffer from obesity.*

### **Body paragraph 2 - effects**

- Sentence 1 - state all the possible effects:

*The possible effects of this problem include physical health problems and loss of productivity.*

- Sentences 2-3 - explain the first effect and give an example:

***First of all**, obesity results in incorrect functioning of the human body and contributes to the risk of developing some chronic illnesses. **For example**, as body fat percentage increases, the person's metabolism worsens, which in turn may result in diabetes or heart diseases.*

- Sentences 4-6 - explain the second effect and support it with an example:

***Secondly**, overweight people are very unhealthy and often suffer from stress and tiredness. This lessens their work capacity and results in lower productivity. **For instance**, it has been proven that an obese person needs to put more effort to complete some task than a person with normal weight.*

### **Conclusion**

For the conclusion you need simply to restate the problem and sum up the causes and effects that you described in your body paragraphs:

***To sum up/In conclusion**, obesity is a big problem that affects a lot of people nowadays. It's mainly caused by inactive lifestyle and eating disorders and results in severe health problems and loss of productivity.*

- Cause and effect uses special words for causes, effects, and predictions, such as
- **led to, because, cause, reason, explanation, so etc.**
- However, for **effects**, the words most commonly used are:
- **Therefore, as a result, consequently, thus, then, and thanks to.**
- For **predictions**, the most commonly used words are :
- **if, when, after, as soon as, may, might, or possible.**

## Useful vocabulary for Comparison points

- likewise
- similarly
- also
- to be the same as
- both... and...
- neither... nor...
- not only... but also...
- to be alike
- just like (+ noun)
- to be similar (to)
- similar to (+ noun)
- to compare (to/with)

## Useful vocabulary for Contrasting points

- in contrast
- by comparison
- in comparison
- on the other hand
- whereas
- while
- however
- but
- to differ from
- to be dissimilar to
- to be different (from)
- to be unlike

## Example Essay 2

***The percentage of overweight children in western society has increased by almost 20% in the last ten years.***

***Discuss the causes and effects of this disturbing trend.***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge.

Write at least 250 words.

## Causes and Effects Essay - Model Answer

Over the last ten years, western societies have seen close to a 20% rise in the number of children who are overweight. This essay will discuss some reasons why this has occurred and examine the consequences of this worrying trend.

The main cause of this problem is poor diet. Over the last decade there has been a prolific increase in the number of fast food restaurants. For example, on nearly every high street there is a MacDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut. The food in these places has been proven to be very unhealthy, and much of the advertising is targeted at children, thus ensuring that they constitute the bulk of the customers of these establishments. However, it is not only due to eating out, but also the type of diet many children have at home. A lot of food consumed is processed food, especially with regards to ready-made meals which are a quick and easy option for parents who are working hard.

The effects of this have been and will continue to be very serious. Firstly, there has been a large increase in health related diseases amongst children, especially diabetes. This debilitating illness means a child has to be injected with insulin for the rest of their life. Not only this, very overweight children often experience bullying from other children, which may affect their mental health. The negative stigma of being overweight may also affect self-esteem.

To sum up, it is evident that there are several causes of obesity amongst children, and a variety of negative effects. Society must ensure steps are taken to prevent this problem from deteriorating further.

### **Activity 1- Writing a cause and effect essay.**

*In many parts of the world today there is a profitable market for products which lighten or whiten people's skin.*

*Outline the reasons for using such products and discuss what effects they have in terms of health and society.*

### **Argumentative essays (Can you analyze the structure of this essay?)**

### **IELTS Writing Task 2: Model Answer**

**It is sometimes argued that too many students go to university, while others claim that a university education should be a universal right.**

**Discuss both sides of the argument and give your own opinion.**

In some advanced countries, it is not unusual for more than 50% of young adults to attend college or university. Critics, however, claim that many university courses are worthless and young people would be better off gaining skills in the workplace. This essay will examine both sides of this argument.

There are several reasons why young people today believe they have the right to a university education. First, growing prosperity in many parts of the world has increased the number of families with money to invest in their children's future. At the same time, falling birthrates mean that one- or two-child families have become common, increasing the level of investment in each child. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that young people are willing to let their families support them until the age of 21 or 22. Furthermore, millions of new jobs have been created in knowledge industries, and these jobs are typically open only to university graduates.

However, it often appears that graduates end up in occupations unrelated to their university

engineering graduate to retrain as a teacher, for example. Some critics have suggested that young people are just delaying their entry into the workplace, rather than developing professional skills. A more serious problem is that the high cost of a university education will mean that many families are reluctant to have more than one child, exacerbating the falling birthrates in certain countries.

In conclusion, while it can be argued that too much emphasis is placed on a university education, my own opinion is that the university years are a crucial time for personal development. If people enter the workplace aged 18, their future options may be severely restricted. Attending university allows them time to learn more about themselves and make a more appropriate choice of career.

### **Activity 2- Writing an argumentative essay.**

The growing number of overweight people is putting a strain on the health care system in an effort to deal with the health issues involved. Some people think that the best way to deal with this problem is to introduce more physical education lessons in the school curriculum. To what extent do you agree or disagree.

### **The Compare and contrast essay**

*Some people want to live in a house while others prefer living in an apartment.*

*Does living in a house bring more advantages than living in an apartment?*

The essay can be structured mainly in 4 paragraphs as follows:

**Paragraph 1: Introduction**

**Paragraph 2: Benefits of living in a house/apartment**

**Paragraph 3: Issues of living in a house/apartment**

**Paragraph 4: Conclusion**

Further structuring of the paragraphs can be done as follows:

#### ***a. Paragraph 1- Introduction***

Sentence 1- Paraphrase the Question

Sentence 2-Outline the sentence

#### ***b. Paragraph 2- Body Paragraph 1 (Apartment)***

Sentence 1- State the benefit

Sentence 2- Explain how it brings this benefit

Sentence 4- Write an example

### *c. Paragraph 3 – Body Paragraph 2 (House)*

Sentence 1- State the issue

Sentence 2-Explain how it leads to this issue

Sentence 3- Write an example

### *d. Paragraph 4- Conclusion*

Sentence 1- Summary of the main point to conclude which is better and why four paragraphs are sufficient to explain your point of view. You may use any other structure you are comfortable with but this structure is approved by the IELTS examiners to help the students write in an effective and cohesive manner.

### **Sample Answer:**

There are many people who believe that living in a house is the best. **However**, some people disagree with this opinion and **instead** prefer to live in an apartment. This essay makes comparison of the two and chooses the most preferred option.

**To begin with**, living in a flat definitely brings several advantages to a resident. **One of the most important reasons** behind this is the huge convenience it offers. An apartment is a part of large building giving a feel of living in a small societal association which takes responsibility of any fix or repair or maintenance required. **For example**, if one needs to repair the roof, the maintenance charges are borne by the landlord. **Moreover**, various facilities as well as amenities are available nearby including shopping mall, tuition centre, medical store, bus station and so on.

**On the other hand**, living in an owned house does not offer the facilities that one can avail while living in an apartment. **One reason for this** is that it is quite lonely to stay in a house which occupies a large land area bringing boredom and snatching the joy of living with so many people around. **For example**, it would be such a dull experience of sitting alone in the garden with no one around to share life experiences. **In addition to this**, maintenance and cleanliness of the house are borne by the owner and thus it is costly to live in a house.

**Conclusively**, living in an apartment is **comparatively** better than staying lonely in a house. **Though** a house provides a large spacious area to move around **but** living in an apartment enhances more social interaction and adds more excitement to life.

(283 words)

### **Exercise 3 – Compare & contrast essay.**

A growing number of people own personal vehicle as they find it a convenient mode of transport in comparison to public transport. Compare the public and private mode of transportation and state which is better out of the two.

#### **Other types of essays are as follows**

##### **Definition Essay**

As the name suggests, a definition type of essay defines different things, ideas, and perceptions.

##### **Analytical Essay**

An analytical essay analyzes something, such as in literature an analytical essay analyzes a piece of literature from different angles.

##### **Analytical Essay**

An analytical essay analyzes something, such as in literature. An analytical essay analyzes a piece of literature from different angles.

##### **Critical Essay**

A critical essay is written on literary pieces to evaluate them on the basis of their merits or demerits.

##### **Synthesis Essay**

A synthesis essay means to synthesize different ideas to make a judgment about their merit and demerits.

##### **Explicatory Essay**

An explicatory essay is meant to explain a piece of literature. It is often written about poems, short stories, and novels.

##### **Rhetorical Analysis Essay**

A rhetorical analysis essay evaluates a speech or a piece of rhetoric on the basis of rhetorical strategies and devices used in it.

##### **Review Essay**

A review essay discusses the merits and demerits of a book and evaluates it through a review.

##### **Simple Essay**

A simple essay is just a five-paragraph essay that is written on any topic after it is specified.

##### **Research Essay**

A research essay revolves around a research question that is meant to answer some specific question through a research of the relevant literature.

### ***References***

<https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/causes-and-effects.html>

<https://ielts-up.com/writing/cause-effect-essay.html>

<https://ieltsolinetests.com/writing-tips/how-write-compare-and-contrast-type-essay-ielts-writing-task-2>

<https://ielts-academic.com/2012/07/25/argument-essay-with-sample-answer/>