

9 Types of Essay Writing

(With Clear Definitions, Simple Structure, and Easy Examples)

1. Narrative Essay

Definition

A narrative essay tells a **story from real life** or imagination. It usually includes characters, events, and emotions. You write it **like you're telling a personal experience**.

Structure

- **Introduction:** Set the scene
- **Body:** Describe the event step by step
- **Conclusion:** Share what you learned or how it ended

Example Topic

- A Trip to Murree That Changed Me
- The Day I Got Lost in a Mall

Tip

Use **“I”**, **“me”**, **“my”** — like you're talking to a friend.

2. Descriptive Essay

Definition

A descriptive essay is used to **describe a person, place, object, or feeling**. It uses **details and senses** (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to help the reader imagine it.

Structure

- **Introduction:** What are you describing?
- **Body:** Use all 5 senses to paint the picture
- **Conclusion:** Final impression or personal connection

Example Topic

- My Grandmother's Kitchen
- A Rainy Day in Lahore

Tip

Describe so well that the reader can **see it in their mind**.

3. Expository Essay

Definition

An expository essay is written to **explain something clearly**. It is **factual and neutral** — no opinions. You simply **inform** or **teach** something.

Structure

- **Introduction:** What you are going to explain
- **Body:** Step-by-step explanation with examples
- **Conclusion:** Brief summary of main points

Example Topic

- How the Internet Works
- Steps to Apply for a Passport in Pakistan

Tip

Just explain. **No personal opinions. No drama.**

4. Persuasive Essay

Definition

A persuasive essay is used to **convince the reader to agree** with your opinion or belief. You give **strong reasons and examples** to support your side.

Structure

- **Introduction:** Clearly state your opinion
- **Body:** Give 2–3 strong reasons with examples
- **Conclusion:** Restate your opinion powerfully

Example Topic

- Mobile Phones Should Be Allowed in Schools
- Why Plastic Bags Should Be Banned

Tip

Use words like “**I believe**”, “**we must**”, “**it is clear that...**”

5. Argumentative Essay

Definition

An argumentative essay presents **both sides of an issue**, but you must **choose one side** and prove why it is stronger using **facts, examples, and logic**.

Structure

- **Introduction:** Mention both sides, then your side
- **Body:** Your arguments + Opponent’s counterarguments
- **Conclusion:** Final strong opinion

Example Topic

- Is Online Learning Better Than Traditional Learning?
- Is AI a Threat or a Tool?

Tip

Be fair to both sides, but defend your choice **strongly**.

6. Compare and Contrast Essay

Definition

This essay shows **how two things are similar and different**. The goal is to help the reader understand both things better by comparing their features.

Structure

- **Introduction:** Name both topics
- **Body:** List similarities first, then differences (or mix)
- **Conclusion:** Final thoughts or preference

Example Topic

- Books vs. Movies
- Facebook vs. Instagram

Tip

Use words like **both**, **however**, **while**, **unlike**, **similarly**.

7. Cause and Effect Essay

Definition

This essay explains the **reason something happened (cause)** and what **resulted from it (effect)**. It's about showing connections.

Structure

- **Introduction:** State the situation
- **Body:** Explain causes first, then effects
- **Conclusion:** Wrap it up or suggest a solution

Example Topic

- Causes and Effects of Pollution
- What Happens When Students Don't Sleep Well

Tip

Use words like **because**, **as a result**, **therefore**, **due to**.

8. Problem and Solution Essay

Definition

This essay discusses a real-world **problem** and gives **possible solutions** to fix it. It's practical and helpful.

Structure

- **Introduction:** State the problem clearly
- **Body:** Explain the problem + suggest 1–2 solutions
- **Conclusion:** Pick the best solution and close it

Example Topic

- Traffic Problems in Big Cities and How to Solve Them
- Unemployment in Pakistan

Tip

Focus more on **realistic solutions** — not just the problem.

9. Critical Essay (Review/Analysis)

Definition

A critical essay gives your **analysis or opinion** on a book, movie, article, or idea. You explain what was good, bad, or meaningful.

Structure

- **Introduction:** Name the work and basic info
- **Body:** Discuss important parts, strengths, and weaknesses
- **Conclusion:** Your final judgment or message

Example Topic

- A Critical Review of the Movie ‘3 Idiots’
- Analysis of Allama Iqbal’s Poem ‘Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua’

Tip

It’s not just about liking or disliking — explain **why** with examples.

Final Summary Table (With Purpose and Example)

Need More Help?

Let me know if you want sample outlines, opening lines, or essay templates for practice!

Essay Type	Purpose	Easy Example Topic
Narrative	Tell a story	A Visit to Murree
Descriptive	Describe something	My Dream House
Expository	Explain a topic	How Email Works
Persuasive	Convince reader	Students Should Wear Uniforms
Argumentative	Give both sides + opinion	Is Social Media Helpful or Harmful?
Compare & Contrast	Show differences/similarities	Android vs iPhone
Cause & Effect	Show reason & result	Causes of Climate Change
Problem & Solution	Identify and solve an issue	Traffic in Lahore
Critical	Analyze a book/movie/poem	Review of '3 Idiots'