

原力英语 B2 学术写作训练

学术写作类别和写作形式

ESSAY WRITING

WHAT IS AN ESSAY?

Essays are shorter pieces of writing that often require the student to hone a number of skills such as close reading, analysis, comparison and contrast, persuasion, conciseness, clarity, and exposition. As is evidenced by this list of attributes, there is much to be gained by the student who strives to succeed at essay writing.

GENRES OF ESSAYS

The four genres of essays are common paper assignments:

Expository essays

Descriptive essays

Narrative essays

Argumentative (Persuasive) essays

Essay 的类型	所需要的技能	示例
Argumentative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ 通过研究形成一种观点 √ 建立基于证据的论点 	互联网的兴起对教育的影响是积极的还是消极的？
Expository	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ 围绕主题的说明知识 √ 将信息表达清楚 	解释15世纪印刷机的发明是如何改变欧洲社会的。
Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ 创造性的使用语言 √ 呈现引人注目的叙述 	写一段让你对自己有所了解的经历。
Descriptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ 创造性的使用语言 √ 描述感官细节 	描述一个对你有感情价值的物品。

WRITING ESSAYS FOR EXAMS

WHAT IS A WELL WRITTEN ANSWER TO AN ESSAY QUESTION?

It is...

Well Focused

Be sure to answer the question completely, that is, answer all parts of the question. Avoid "padding." A lot of rambling and ranting is a sure sign that the writer doesn't really know what the right answer is and hopes that somehow, something in that overgrown jungle of words was the correct answer.

It is...

Well Organized

Don't write in a haphazard "think-as-you-go" manner. Do some planning and be sure that what you write has a clearly marked introduction which both states the point(s) you are going to make and also, if possible, how you are going to proceed. In addition, the essay should have a clearly indicated conclusion which summarizes the material covered and emphasizes your thesis or main point.

It is...

Well Supported

Do not just assert something is true, prove it. What facts, figures, examples, tests, etc. prove your point? In many cases, the difference between an A and a B as a grade is due to the effective use of supporting evidence.

It is...

Well Packaged

People who do not use conventions of language are thought of by their readers as less competent and less educated.

SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERNS & USEFUL TRANSITION WORDS

SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERNS

Most essay questions will have one or more "key words" that indicate which organizational pattern you should use in your answer.

The five most common organizational patterns for essay exams are analysis, cause and effect, comparison/contrast, process analysis, and thesis-support.

ANALYSIS

Typical questions

Analysis involves breaking something down into its components and discovering the parts that make up the whole.

Process

Outline for supporting details and examples. For example, if you were answering the example question, an outline might include:

Vocational education

Continuing education

Personal development

Write the essay, describing each part or component and making transitions between each of your descriptions.

Some useful transition words include:

first, second, third, etc.

next

another

in addition

moreover

Conclude the essay by emphasizing how each part you have described makes up the whole you have been asked to analyze.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Cause and effect involves tracing probable or known effects of a certain cause or examining one or more effects and discussing the reasonable or known cause(s).

Typical questions:

"What are the causes of X?"

"What led to X?"

"Why did X occur?"

"Why does X happen?"

"What would be the effects of X?"

Useful transition words:

because

consequently

therefore
for this reason
as a result

COMPARISON-CONTRAST

Typical questions:

"How does X differ from Y?"

"Compare X and Y."

"What are the advantages and disadvantages of X and Y?"

Two patterns of development:

Pattern 1

Full-sized car

Advantages

Disadvantages

Compact car

Advantages

Disadvantages

Pattern 2

Advantages

Full-sized car

Compact car

Disadvantages

Full-sized car

Compact car

Useful transition words

on the other hand

similarly

yet

unlike A, B ...

in the same way

but

while both A and B are ..., only B ..

nevertheless

on the contrary

though

despite

however

conversely

while A is ..., B is ...

THESIS AND SUPPORT

Thesis and support involves stating a clearly worded opinion or interpretation and then defending it with all the data, examples, facts, and so on that you can draw from the material you have studied.

Typical questions:

"Discuss X."

"A noted authority has said X. Do you agree or disagree?"

"Defend or refute X."

"Do you think that X is valid? Defend your position."

Useful transition words:

therefore

for this reason

it follows that

as a result

because

however

EXPOSITORY ESSAYS

The expository essay is a genre of essay that requires the student to investigate an idea, evaluate evidence, expound on the idea, and set forth an argument concerning that idea in a clear and concise manner. This can be accomplished through comparison and contrast, definition, example, the analysis of cause and effect, etc.

The structure of the expository essay is held together by the following:

A clear, concise, and defined thesis statement that occurs in the first paragraph of the essay.

Clear and logical transitions between the introduction, body, and conclusion.

Body paragraphs that include evidential support.

Evidential support (whether factual, logical, statistical, or anecdotal).

A bit of creativity!

A conclusion that does not simply restate the thesis, but readdresses it in light of the evidence provided.

DESCRIPTIVE ESSAYS

The descriptive essay is a genre of essay that asks the student to describe something—object, person, place, experience, emotion, situation, etc. This genre encourages the student's ability to create a written account of a particular experience. What is more, this genre allows for a great deal of artistic freedom (the goal of which is to paint an image that is vivid and moving in the mind of the reader).

Guidelines for writing a descriptive essay.

Take time to brainstorm

Use clear and concise language.

Choose vivid language.

Use your senses!

What were you thinking?!

Leave the reader with a clear impression.

Be organized!