
Essay Elements

Essay structure

<essay>: root element for essay, contains all other elements

<docHead>: (document header) contains metadata about the document (title, author, date)

<body>: main body for essay; contains one intro element, one or more bodyPara elements, and one concl element

<docFoot>: (document footer) footer for essay; contains a title element and a list of bibliographic citations.

Textual divisions

<intro>: (introduction) a structural division, contains the text of the introduction of the essay; i.e. an introduction into the material you will be analyzing with some background information; [contains one or more 'p' (paragraph) elements]

<bodyPara>: (body paragraph) a structural division containing a group of related sentences about a particular topic or idea directly relating to the thesis of the essay

<concl>: (conclusion) a structural division containing a summary of everything that was written in the essay that ends off on a note that makes the reader think; generally written in a short, concise paragraph, and appearing at the end of an Essay; [contains one or more 'p' (paragraph) elements]

Text-based blocks

<p>: (paragraph) a division of text indicating a
—— Paragraph

<q>: (quote) indicates quoted text; for quoted material, should be accompanied by a citation element

<list>: (list) a group of item elements

<listBibl>: (bibliographic list) contains a list of bibliographic

citations

Essay content

Interpretive

<argument>: (interpretive claim/argument) indicates a claim/argument made based on evidence presented or to be presented in an essay [requires @type attribute, values of 'main,' 'supporting,' or 'opposing']

Descriptive

<scene>: indicates a scene, a place where rhetorical interaction occurs in order to accomplish shared objective(s)

<genre>: indicates a genre; a way of responding to a situation that repeats itself within a scene

<situation>: indicates the rhetorical interactions happening within a scene, involving participants, subjects, settings and purposes [can include participants and settings tags]

<participants>: indicates participants, the entities that are involved and active in a scene [can appear inside the situation tag]

<setting>: indicates the location and surroundings in which a scene takes place [can appear inside the situation tag]

<context>: indicates information provided to better understand a claim, argument, or idea. Typically precedes an idea, claim or argument that warrant background info.

<aesthetics>: indicates aesthetic elements of a composition, including pictures, font styles, colors, other material properties, etc.

<sim>: (similarities) indicates text that points to similarities between two or more texts [can optionally contain any other essay content elements]

<diff>: (differences) indicates text that points to differences between two or more texts [can optionally contain any other essay content elements]

<pattern>: (generic pattern) indicates an identifiable trait, characteristic, and/or example of a pattern within a genre [requires @type attribute of user-defined

value]

<evidence>: (evidence) indicates evidence in support of a claim or argument

Phrase-level

<q>: (quote) indicates quoted text; for quoted material, should be accompanied by a citation element

<citation>: in-text citation) an in-text citation [requires @source attribute corresponding to the @xml:id of a bibl element]

<bibl>: (bibliographic citation) contains a bibliographic citation

<item>: (item) a member of a list

<note>: contains a note made on the text intended to provide additional information or comment upon the text [requires @type attribute and suggested @who attribute]

Essay presentation

<style>: (style/rendition) indicates a segment of text that should be styled in a particular way that is otherwise not marked up [required @type attribute e.g., 'italics', 'bold', 'underline']
