

16. Essay Writing

DEFINITION OF AN ESSAY:

An essay can be defined as "prose composition with a focused subject of discussion" or a "long, systematic discourse".

PARTS OF AN ESSAY:

Traditionally, it has been taught that a formal essay consists of three parts:

- The introductory paragraph or introduction
- The body paragraphs, and
- The concluding paragraph

Introductory Paragraph:

➔ What is an introduction paragraph?

The Introduction paragraph is the first paragraph of your essay.

➔ What does it do?

It introduces the main idea of your essay. A good opening paragraph captures the interest of your reader and tells why your topic is important.

➔ How do I write one?

Write the thesis statement. The main idea of the essay is stated in a single sentence called the thesis statement. You must limit your entire essay to the topic you have introduced in your thesis statement.

Provide some background information about your topic. You can use interesting facts, quotations, or definitions of important terms you will use later in the essay.

Example:

Hockey has been a part of life in Canada for over 120 years. It has evolved into an extremely popular sport watched and played by millions of Canadians. The game has gone through several changes since hockey was first played in Canada.

Supporting Paragraphs:

➔ What are supporting paragraphs?

- Supporting paragraphs make up the main body of your essay.

➔ What do they do?

- They develop the main idea of your essay.

➔ How do I write them?

- List the points that develop the main idea of your essay.

- Place each supporting point in its own paragraph.
- Develop each supporting point with facts, details, and examples.

To connect your supporting paragraphs, you should use special transition words. Transition words link your paragraphs together and make your essay easier to read. Use them at the beginning and end of your paragraphs.

Examples of transition words that can help you to link your paragraphs together:

For listing different points
First
Second
Third

For counter examples
However
Even though
On the other hand
Nevertheless

For additional ideas
Another
In addition to
Related to
Furthermore
Also

To show cause and effect
Therefore
Thus
As a result of
Consequently

Like all good paragraphs, each supporting paragraph should have a:

- Topic sentence
- Supporting sentences
- Summary sentence

Summary Paragraph:

➔ What is a summary paragraph?

The summary paragraph comes at the end of your essay after you have finished developing your ideas. The summary paragraphs are often called a 'conclusion'.

➔ What does it do?

It summarizes or restates the main idea of the essay. You want to leave the reader with a sense that your essay is complete.

➔ How do I write one?

Restate the strongest points of your essay that support your main idea.

Conclude your essay by restating the main idea in different words.

Give your personal opinion or suggest a plan for action.

Example:

Overall, the changes that occurred in hockey have helped to improve the game. Hockey is faster and more exciting as a result of changes in the past 120 years. For these reasons, modern hockey is a better game than hockey in the 1890s.

ESSAY WRITING PROCESS:

Essay writing can be divided into two stages:

- Prewriting Essays
- Writing Essays

Prewriting Essays

➔ What is the prewriting stage?

The prewriting stage is when you prepare your ideas for your essay before you begin writing. You will find it easier to write your essay if you build an outline first especially when you are writing longer assignments.

Six Prewriting Steps

- 1) Think carefully about what you are going to write. Ask yourself:
 - What question am I going to answer in this paragraph or essay?
 - How can I best answer this question?
 - What is the most important part of my answer?
 - How can I make an introductory sentence (or thesis statement) from the most important part of my answer?
 - What facts or ideas can I use to support my introductory sentence?
 - How can I make this paragraph or essay interesting?
 - Do I need more facts on this topic?
 - Where can I find more facts on this topic?
- 2) Open your notebook. Write out your answers to the above questions. You do not need to spend a lot of time doing this; just write enough to help you remember why and how you are going to write your paragraph or essay.
- 3) Collect facts related to your paragraph or essay topic. Look for and write down facts that will help you to answer your question. Timesaving hint: make sure the facts

you are writing are related to the exact question you are going to answer in your paragraph or essay.

- 4) Write down your own ideas. Ask yourself:
 - What else do I want to say about this topic?
 - Why should people be interested in this topic?
 - Why is this topic important?
- 5) Find the main idea of your paragraph or essay. Choose the most important point you are going to present. If you cannot decide which point is the most important, just choose one point and stick to it throughout your paragraph or essay.
- 6) Organize your facts and ideas in a way that develops your main idea. Once you have chosen the most important point of your paragraph or essay, you must find the best way to tell your reader about it. Look at the facts you have written. Look at your own ideas on the topic. Decide which facts and ideas will best support the main idea of your essay. Once you have chosen the facts and ideas you plan to use, ask yourself which order to put them in the essay. Write down your own note set that you can use to guide yourself as you write your essay.

Writing Essays

➔ What are writing stages?

The writing stage is when you turn your idea into sentences.

Five Writing Steps:

- 1) For the introduction, write the thesis statement and give some background information.
- 2) Develop each supporting paragraph and make sure to follow the correct paragraph format.
- 3) Write clear and simple sentences to express your meaning.
- 4) Focus on the main idea of your essay.
- 5) Find additional words to express your meaning.

KINDS OF ESSAYS:**Definition Essay**

When you are writing a definition essay, you take a term or an idea and write about what it is. Often, definitions are combined with classification or other forms of organization in the essay. You need to give a careful definition of the key term before going on to discuss types or examples.

Example question:

Write an essay defining energy resources and discuss the different types.

Introduction:

Define the key term energy resources.

Supporting paragraphs:

1. Define one type of energy resources: renewable resources.
2. Define another type of energy resources: non-renewable resources.

Summary paragraph:

Summarize energy resources

Sequence Essay

In a sequence essay, you are writing to describe a series of events or a process in some sort of order. Usually, this order is based on time. You organize the essay by writing about each step of the process in the order it occurred.

Example question:

Write an essay outlining the stages of the frog life cycle.

Introduction:

Briefly describe Frog life cycle.

Supporting paragraphs:

1. Describe egg stage.
2. Describe Tadpole stage.
3. Describe Froglet stage.
4. Describe Frog.

Summary paragraph:

Summarize the main steps of the Frog life cycle.

Classification Essay

In a classification essay, you separate things or ideas into specific categories and discuss each of them. You organize the essay by defining each classification and by giving examples of each type.

Example question:	Write an essay discussing the Five key features of the government in India.
Introduction:	Give background information about government in India.
Supporting paragraphs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Define and describe sovereign government.2. Define and describe socialist government.3. Define and describe secular government.4. Define and describe democratic government.5. Define and describe republic government.
Summary paragraph:	Summarize government in India.

Choice Essay

In a choice essay, you need to choose which object, idea, or action that you prefer. You organize the essay by describing each option and then giving your opinion.

Example question:	Write an essay choosing between hockey in the 1920s and hockey today.
Introduction:	Introduce the game of hockey.
Supporting paragraphs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe hockey in the 1920s.2. Describe hockey today.3. State which form of hockey you prefer and why.
Summary paragraph:	Summarize the game of hockey.

Description Essay

In a description essay, you write about what a person, place, or thing is like. You organize the essay by describing different parts or aspects of the main subject.

Example question:	Write an essay describing the King Cobra.
Introduction:	Describe what a King Cobra is
Supporting paragraphs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe where the King Cobra lives.2. Describe the Body of the King Cobra.3. Describe what the King Cobra eats.
Summary paragraph:	Summarize what a King Cobra is?

Explanation Essay

In an explanation essay, you explain how or why something happens or has happened. You need to explain different causes and effects. You should organize the essay by explaining each individual cause or effect.

Example question:	Write an essay explaining why so many Sri Lankans moved to India during the early twentieth century.
Introduction:	Give background information on Sri Lankans immigration during this time.
Supporting paragraphs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain first reason: poor economy in Sri Lankans.2. Explain second reason: better education, employment & business in India.
Summary paragraph:	Summarize main reasons.

Compare and Contrast Essay

In a compare and contrast essay, you write about the similarities and differences between two or more people, places, or things. You can organize the essay by writing about one subject first and then comparing it with the second subject. A more effective way is to organize the essay by comparing each subject by category.

Example:	Write an essay comparing the weather in Hyderabad and Chennai.
Introduction:	Introduce weather in the cities of Hyderabad and Chennai.
Supporting paragraphs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Compare weather in summer and winter for both cities.2. State how they are similar or different.3. Compare weather in monsoon for both cities.4. State how they are similar or different.
Summary paragraph:	Summarize the similarities and differences

Evaluation Essay

In an evaluation essay, you make judgments about people, ideas, and possible actions. You make your evaluation based on certain criteria that you develop. Organize the essay by discussing the criteria you used to make your judgment.

Example question:	Write an essay evaluating the importance of the Lok Sabha.
Introduction:	Give your judgment on whether the Lok Sabha is important.
Supporting paragraphs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain first criteria: House of the people.

2. Explain second criteria: represent Indians.

3. Explain third criteria: make laws for India.

**Summary
paragraph:**

Conclude with an overall judgment about the Lok Sabha

Essay Topics

- Education
- Corruption in India
- Homework
- The advantages of adopting Vegetarian
- Recently the freedom to work and live anywhere has become the main trend due to the development of communication technology and transportation. Do the advantages of these developments outweigh the disadvantages? Discuss.
- Role of Media in a Democracy
- Bribery in Business
- Tackling Hunger Globally
- Legalizing Prostitution in India
- Tell something that has fundamentally transformed the way you think <200 words>
- What has been your biggest challenge, and what have you learned from it? <200 words>
- Which historical figure do you most identify with and why?
- What are your short-term and long term goals?
- Life is full of uncertainties, and plans and circumstances can change. As a result, navigating a career requires you to be adaptable – Should your short –term goals not materialize what alternative directions have you considered?
- If you could choose one song that expresses who you are, what is it and why? (250 word maximum)
- What is your most significant accomplishment? (250 word maximum)
- Describe a time when you were a student of your own failure. What specific insight from this experience has shaped your development? (250 word maximum)

- What is your most significant accomplishment? (250 word maximum)
- Tell us about something you did well. (400 words)
- Tell us about something you wish you had done better. (400 words)
- Tell us how you think an activity you enjoy doing contributes to your personal and professional development.
- Give a candid description of yourself, stressing the personal characteristics you feel to be your strengths and weaknesses and the main factors, which have influenced your personal development, giving examples when necessary. (600 words maximum)

