



**SRM**  
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

# ESSAY WRITING

A guide to writing an essay

**Department of English and Foreign Languages**  
**SRM Institute of science and Technology**



# Definition

- The word 'essay' derived from the Latin word 'exagium', meaning the presentation of a case.
- The Frenchman **Michel de Montaigne**, born in 1533, was the first author to describe his works of writing as essays.
- An essay is a focused piece of writing that develops an argument or narrative based on evidence, analysis and interpretation.



# Types of essays

- Argumentative essays
- Expository essays
- Narrative essays
- Descriptive essays
- Textual analysis essays



# Characteristics of an essay

- Unity
  - Coherence
  - Brevity
  - Style
  - Personal touch
- 
- An essay must have a unity, treating in orderly manner of one subject and the style should be simple, direct and clear.



# Classification of essays

Essay type	Skills tested	Example prompt
Argumentative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Forming an opinion via research</li><li>•Building an evidence-based argument</li></ul>	Has the rise of the internet had a positive or negative impact on education?
Expository	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Knowledge of a topic</li><li>•Communicating information clearly</li></ul>	Explain how the invention of the printing press changed European society in the 15th century.
Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Creative language use</li><li>•Presenting a compelling narrative</li></ul>	Write about an experience where you learned something about yourself.
Descriptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Creative language use</li><li>•Describing sensory details</li></ul>	Describe an object that has sentimental value for you.



# Structuring an essay

## □ Outlining

- An essay outline is a way of planning the structure of your essay before you start writing.
- It involves writing quick summary sentences or phrases for every point you will cover in each paragraph, giving you a picture of how your argument will unfold.

# Contd..



- **Organizing your material**

- you need to shape your ideas into a structured argument.

- **Tips for Organization**

- Arguments usually proceed from the simplest claim to the most complex
- Give the background early
- Define terms as needed



# The Introduction

A good introduction paragraph is both engaging and informative. The main goals of your introduction are to:

- ✓ Catch your reader's attention and interest.
- ✓ Give context and background on your topic.
- ✓ Set up the focus and purpose of your essay.

## □ Thesis statement

- ✓ The central argument of your paper or essay.
- ✓ It is just one or two sentences long, and usually appears near the end of your introduction.

### Example:

- ✓ To slow the effects of climate change, the US should immediately begin phasing out fossil fuels and invest in a Green New Deal; as the world's most powerful economy, it can take a global lead in reducing carbon emissions.



# The body of an academic essay



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- ✓ Begin with a rough outline of the organization.
- ✓ A good working thesis statement A good working thesis statement and working topic sentences will help keep you on track as you write.
- ✓ Condense all of the paragraphs into only their topic sentences and read them one at a time.
- ✓ Check for smooth transitions between paragraphs.
- ✓ Example: **However**, evidence from a more recent study points to a different conclusion. ...



# Contd..

## □ Topic Sentence

- Every **paragraph** in your paper needs a topic sentence. The topic sentence expresses what the paragraph is about. It should include two key things:
  - ✓ The topic of the paragraph
  - ✓ The central point of the paragraph.

## □ How to write Paragraphs:

- ✓ **Unified:** all the sentences relate to one central point or idea.
- ✓ **Coherent:** the sentences are logically organized and clearly connected.
- ✓ **Relevant:** the paragraph supports the overall theme and purpose of the paper.



# How to conclude an essay?

- A strong conclusion doesn't just summarize what you've already written. It aims to:
  - ✓ Make connections that tie together the essay's main points.
  - ✓ Show why your argument or analysis matters.
  - ✓ Leave the reader with a sense of the essay's broader implications.
  
- A strong conclusion aim to do the following:
  - ✓ Synthesize the essay's main points
  - ✓ Emphasize the significance of the thesis statement
  - ✓ Close the essay's argument and open broader questions



# Revision Process

- The most effective approach to revising an essay is to move from general to specific:
- ✓ Start by looking at the big picture: Does your essay achieve its overall purpose, and does it proceed in a logical order?
- ✓ Next, dive into each paragraph: Do all the sentences contribute to the point of the paragraph, and do all your points fit together smoothly?
- ✓ Finally, polish up the details: Is your grammar on point, your punctuation perfect, and your meaning crystal clear?

# Structure of an Essay (cont.)

## Introduction

Dramatic Opener or Hook  
Transitional Sentence  
  
Thesis Statement



## Body

Topic Sentence  
Details and Examples  
  
Concluding Transition Sentence

**The body of your essay can be three or more paragraphs long.**

## Conclusion

Summary Statement (restate your thesis)  
Clincher



# Essay Topics for practice

- ❑ Learning at Home during Lockdown: My Parents and My Teachers
- ❑ Does technology play a role in making people feel more isolated?
- ❑ Social media has played a big role in increasing business opportunities.
- ❑ An experience that changed my life forever.
- ❑ Universities are becoming business driven.
- ❑ Write an essay on how advancement in science improve the quality of life for humans.



# References

- Dew, E, Stephen(2020). *Practical Academic Essay Writing Skills: An International ESL Students English Essay Writing Book* (Academic Writing Skills) (Volume 2) 2nd Edition . HBI Cambodia.com
- The Beginner's Guide to writing an Essay retrieved from  
<https://www.scribbr.com/category/academic-essay/>



The background features a dark, textured surface with a grid-like pattern. Overlaid on this is a large, stylized diamond shape composed of multiple concentric lines. The diamond is filled with a photograph of a cityscape, showing buildings and a bright sky with clouds. The text "THANK Y" is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font on the right side of the image.

**THANK Y**