**Essay**

* An essay is a piece of writing which is often written from an author's personal point of view.
* a short written composition in prose that discusses a subject or proposes an argument without claiming to be a complete or thorough exposition.

**Different types of Essay**

1. Narrative essay - writing a story connected with personal experiences. The key element of a narrative essay is a defined point of view presented in the paper and delivered through sharing emotions and sensory details with the reader.

Example:

*Christmas Cookies*

*Although I have grown up to be entirely inept at the art of cooking, as to make even the most wretched chef ridicule my sad baking attempts, my childhood would have indicated otherwise; I was always on the countertop next to my mother’s cooking bowl, adding and mixing ingredients that would doubtlessly create a delicious food. When I was younger, cooking came intrinsically with the holiday season, which made that time of year the prime occasion for me to unite with ounces and ounces of satin dark chocolate, various other messy and gooey ingredients, numerous cooking utensils, and the assistance of my mother to cook what would soon be an edible masterpiece. The most memorable of the holiday works of art were our Chocolate Crinkle Cookies, which my mother and I first made when I was about six and are now made annually.*

1. Descriptive essay. Explains the what, why, how, when, and where of a topic. For example, a descriptive essay about a tree would explain what it’s made of, why it grows, when it grows, and so on.

Example:

*I have always been fascinated by carnival rides. It amazes me that average, ordinary people eagerly trade in the serenity of the ground for the chance to be tossed through the air like vegetables in a food processor. It amazes me that at some time in history someone thought that people would enjoy this, and that person invented what must have been the first of these terrifying machines. For me, it is precisely the thrill and excitement of having survived the ride that keeps me coming back for more.*

*My first experience with a carnival ride was a Ferris wheel at a local fair. Looking at that looming monstrosity spinning the life out of its sardine-caged occupants, I was dumbstruck. It was huge, smoky, noisy and not a little intimidating. Ever since that initial impression became fossilized in my imagination many years ago, these rides have reminded me of mythical beasts, amazing dinosaurs carrying off their screaming passengers like sacrificial virgins. Even the droning sound of their engines brings to mind the great roar of a fire-breathing dragon with smoke spewing from its exhaust-pipe nostrils.*

*The first ride on one of these fantastic beasts gave me an instant rush of adrenaline. As the death-defying ride started, a lump in my throat pulsed like a dislodged heart ready to walk the plank. As the ride gained speed, the resistance to gravity built up against my body until I was unable to move. An almost imperceptible pause as the wheel reached the top of its climb allowed my body to relax in a brief state of normalcy. Then there was an assault of stomach-turning weightlessness as the machine continued its rotation and I descended back toward the earth. A cymbal-like crash vibrated through the air as the wheel reached bottom, and much to my surprise I began to rise again.*

*Each new rotation gave me more confidence in the churning machine. Every ascent left me elated that I had survived the previous death-defying fall. When another nerve-wracking climb failed to follow the last exhilarating descent and the ride was over, I knew I was hooked. Physically and emotionally drained, I followed my fellow passengers down the clanging metal steps to reach the safety of my former footing. I had been spared, but only to have the opportunity to ride again.*

*My fascination with these fantastic flights is deeply engrained in my soul. A trip on the wonderful Ferris wheel never fails to thrill me. Although I am becoming older and have less time, or less inclination, to play, the child-like thrill I have on a Ferris wheel continues with each and every ride.*

1. Compare and Contrast Essay- is basically a composition, which is concentrated on two points. The compare and contrast essay reveals the differences and the similarities of these two points, things, situations, etc.  The main task of any writer is to find as many similarities and a difference, as it is possible.

Example:

*Vacationing at the Beach or in the Mountains*

*People are always looking forward to their vacation period. There are many options where to choose. I think that the two most common places people choose for taking a vacation are the beaches and the mountains. Both places offer a variety of fun activities. The beach offers activities that the mountain cannot offer and vice versa. The mountain and the beach are totally different. The purpose of this essay is to contrast the climate, types of activities and locations of beaches and mountains.*

*I’m going to discuss mountains first. The three aspects I’m going to discuss are climate, types of activities and location. Climate is always important in order to enjoy vacations. If a person dislikes cold weather, he or she might have a hard time in the mountains. The cold climate in the mountains is the first barrier to enjoying them, but the climate and the temperature of these zones also determine the types of activities they offer. Snow boarding, mountain climbing, mountain biking, hiking, and skiing are some activities people can enjoy when going to the mountains. There are many regions that have mountains where people can go and have a great vacation. Canada is a country located in North America and contains many mountain vacation sites where people can go and have fun.*

*I’m going to discuss the beach second. The three aspects I’m going to discuss are climate, types of activities and location. Warm climate is one of the most important features that the beach has. Sun and fun are two words that describe the beach. The temperature in those places is always hot. The sea and the warm climate determine the activities that are available at the beach. People can swim, play volleyball, play soccer, and ride water bikes. In most coastal sites, there are discos and restaurants where people can dance or party throughout the night. Mexico offers many amazing coastal sites to visit. Acapulco and Cancun are two of the most beautiful and famous beaches in the word.*

*It doesn’t matter what place a person decides to choose. The fun is 100% guaranteed. People often choose one of these two options to spend their vacations. Depending on what the person likes is what he or she will choose. I like the beach better than the mountains, but sometimes it is better to take a risk and try a different place to enjoy.*

### **Argumentative Essay **-**** The author through proper reasoning, inducting and making conclusions, must prove the assertions or the theories of the argumentative essay. If the author fails to apply the reasons and conclusions to the topic of the essay such essay is considered to be an unsubstantiated opinion.

### Example:

### *On Acceptability of Capital Punishment*

*The proponents of capital punishment often say that it was a natural part of human society for thousands of years and only recently there appeared the idea that it is something unacceptable, horrible and immoral. Well, the same goes for slavery and human sacrifices, but nobody seems to be very eager to have them back.*

*The problem with the death penalty is not simply that of moral. It is the problem of law and logic. The state people live in had been created for the sole purpose of protecting their lives and property from any aggression, both inner and outer. The state has legal right to apply force in order to solve disputes between people. In the case of capital punishment, it considers it has right to decide whether this or that person deserves to live, thus, breaking the very foundation of its own existence.*

*Killing a murderer won’t resurrect the one who has been killed by him; but the murderer may turn out to be innocent if some additional evidence appears. Such cases were and undoubtedly are with many of those who have been executed or are on the death row right now. One may say that such cases are rare, but even one such case that takes place should be considered to be completely inadmissible.*

*Laws exist not for the convenience of officials, but for the citizens of the state; if the government murders an innocent, it hasn’t right to rule over these people – because it is an outright murder. The fact that it wasn’t committed by a particular person doesn’t make it any less gruesome – on the contrary, the very fact that it is performed as a kind of mundane work, makes it much, much worse than the most disgusting murder committed by an individual.*

*The matter is, government isn’t an individual organism that has some kind of higher understanding of our reality. No, it consists of separate people who try to work together; and as it is often the case when people work in groups, they generally work less effectively than individuals do, so, of course, there are mistakes, and even more than one can imagine. And with the execution being an irreversible action, there is completely no logical reason for such an action being based on insufficient data – and there is no data sufficient to legitimize death.*

## Determine What Type of Essay It Is

There are many different types of essays you might be asked to write in elementary, middle or high school. Some of the most common include narrative, expository, argumentative, persuasive, comparative and literary. Are you presenting an overview or telling a story about the topic (narrative) or are you providing an analysis (expository)? Do you have to convince the reader to adopt a certain point of view or to take a particular action (persuasive)? Are you writing an essay about a book you read (literary)? Determining the type of essay is the first step to writing a targeted essay.

## Create an Essay Outline

An essay outline is your road map. It will guide you through to the finished product. When you create an outline, you organize your thoughts about your topic. First, write your topic at the top of the page. Then list all the points or arguments you want to make about the essay topic. Finally, list the facts, examples and statistics that support those points or arguments.

## Develop a Thesis Statement

Your thesis should inform the reader what point you will be making or what question you will be answering about the topic. In other words, it is a prelude to your conclusion. A thesis statement should be as specific as possible and address one main idea. Strong theses also take a stand or illustrate the controversial nature of a topic.

## Introduce Your Topic

The first paragraph of your essay will introduce your topic and provide direction for the entire essay. The introduction should discuss your main idea, or what the essay is about, then state your thesis and points or arguments that support your thesis.

The introduction also sets the tone for your essay, and you want to grab the reader’s attention with interest and clarity. To capture the reader’s attention, you can make a challenging claim about the topic or present some surprising (but factual) information.

## Write the Body of the Essay

The body of the essay provide details for the points in your introductory paragraph that support your thesis. Take the points you listed in your introduction and discuss each in one body paragraph. First, write a topic sentence that summarizes your point then explain why you feel the topic sentence is true. Finally, support your argument with evidence such as facts, quotes, examples and statistics.

## Present Your Conclusion

The conclusion summarizes the essay and gives the reader closure. In three or four concise sentences, you should reiterate your thesis and review the main points of the body of the essay. Just be sure not to restate your previous words exactly. You can even briefly describe your opinion of the topic. Your final sentence should uphold your main idea in a clear and compelling manner.

**Essay**

* is a "prose composition with a focused subject of discussion" or a "long, systematic discourse".
* A short literary composition on a single subject, usually presenting the personal view of the author.

Different Types of Essay:

1. *Narrative essay* - Tells a story in a sequence of events. There should be some point, lesson, or idea gleaned from this narrative to make the essay meaningful.

Example:

*Playground Memory*

*Looking back on a childhood filled with events and memories, I find it rather difficult to pick on that leaves me with the fabled “warm and fuzzy feelings.” As the daughter of an Air Force Major, I had the pleasure of traveling across America in many moving trips. I have visited the monstrous trees of the Sequoia National Forest, stood on the edge of the Grande Canyon and have jumped on the beds at Caesar’s Palace in Lake Tahoe. However, I have discovered that when reflecting on my childhood, it is not the trips that come to mind, instead there are details from everyday doings; a deck of cards, a silver bank or an ice cream flavor.   One memory that comes to mind belongs to a day of no particular importance. It was late in the fall in Merced, California on the playground of my old elementary school; an overcast day with the wind blowing strong. I stood on the blacktop, pulling my hoodie over my ears. The wind was causing miniature tornados; we called them “dirt devils”, to swarm around me.*

1. *Descriptive Essay*- The author basically describes what he observes and perceives. The main message is the reason the author wants to share this experience with the reader. A descriptive essay is to make the reader believe as if he has seen and experienced something on his own.

Example:

***Gabriel Garcia Marquez***

*This man is known all over the world as a writer, but it addition to being a novelist and short story writer he is also a journalist. A little boy, that was by brought up by his maternal grandparents Colonel Ricardo Marquez and Tranquilina Cotes due to the poverty of his parents turned out to be one of the brightest minds Colombia has ever showed to the world and a Nobel laureate. His grandfather Colonel Ricardo Marquez was a person who deeply influenced the young wit of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. His grandfather inspired him for some of his works, for he was a man of a great past and a lot of experience, a man that admired Simon Bolivar, a hero of the fight for independence. Grandfather’s admiration and all the stories that he told Miguel were of a great impact on his future writings. It was the first Garcia’s step towards his ”love to realism”. As his grandfather and he lived in Aracataca, known as the “banana zone” this place and everything that took place in it, from the stories of his grandfather also influenced his works later on. This man is the* “*main figure” of Garcia’s* *life, for he not only taught him “to speak. Garcia’s grandmother had a lesser influence on her grandson, but she was a very interesting woman with an outstanding and original ability to tell false superstitious stories, as if she had seen in with her very own eyes. This taught the young future novelist a lot. At the age of 8 he his grandfather dies and he return to his parents, starts going to a boarding school. He enjoyed reading and loved to study. Later on he went to study law and journalism, but at the University he did not show any interest in what he was studying. Nevertheless, he continued reading a lot, almost anything he could get. He produced his first story in 1946, it was "The Third Resignation". Later, when he studied in Cartagena he worked in a newspaper "El Universal” so he started working as a journalist.*

1. Comparison or Contrast essay - is an essay in which you either compare something or contrast something. A comparison essay is an essay in which you emphasize the similarities, and a contrast essay is an essay in which you emphasize the differences.

Example:

*Consuming Fresh Foods Instead of Canned Foods*

*Eating is an activity that we as humans do at least two times a day. We live in a world where the variety of food is immense, and we are responsible for what we eat. We decide what we are about to eat and how it will affect our bodies. The purpose of this essay is to compare and contrast the differences between eating fresh foods instead of canned foods. The three main differences are flavor, health benefits, and cost.*

*The most notable difference between these two kinds of foods is their flavor. Fresh foods have great flavor and taste because they keep all their natural conditions. Canned foods however, lack a lot of its flavor characteristics because there are some other chemical products added to the natural foods. It is logical that the fresh foods will have a greater taste and flavor when consumed just because of the time in which they have been prepared.*

*Comparing both types of foods we notice another difference. There is a health factor that affects both of them. Canned foods lose some of the original fresh food nutrients when stored, and also it has to be tinned with many conservatives and chemical factors that prolong the shelf life and apparent freshness of the food but could also become toxic if consumed too often.*

*Yet another difference between these two types of foods is the cost. Canned foods are much more expensive than fresh foods. Here the benefit of buying tinned foods is that they are easier to find, for example, in a supermarket instead of the market like the fresh foods, and they require less work to prepare than fresh foods, just open and serve.*

*Here are the main three differences between buying fresh foods and buying canned foods. As we can see it comes down to a personal choice, based on the time each person has, the money and the importance he/she gives to his/her nutrition and health. Therefore it is important that you consider your possibilities and choose* *the best type of foods for your convenience and lifestyle.*

1. Argumentative Essay. Makes a claim or takes a position and backs it up with statistics, expert opinions, and other evidence. You may review an opposing review and explain why it is wrong and you are right.

Example:

*Good and Bad Teachers*

*Teaching can without any doubts be called the leading power of the society’s development. It is well known that there exist three main factors that influence the development of the personality. They are: heredity, social encirclement and education.*

*Usually the term education is used meaning the great impact that parent have on the future personality of their child. But this also includes school education, because nowadays, when parents are very busy they are the people, who teach children what is beautiful and what is ugly, what is right and what is wrong. Through them children learn to perceive the inner world. And the way they perceive it depends on the teacher’s personal particularities that are transmitted to children through interaction and the knowledge that the teacher offers them. Therefore there is much more to a teacher than high professionalism. What makes kids hardly wait until the lesson starts in one cases and hating the subject in others? Of course high professionalism in the field of the taught subject is very important, but when it comes to being a bad or a good teacher this is not the weightiest factor. A good teacher is a person who not just reproduces the knowledge he got. Not a person that only brings up the interest to the subject. It is a person who finds individual approach to every pupil, taking care about the child’s adaptation in class, increasing one’s social status in class and making sure the children learn to take into account and respect the thoughts of other people. It is a man or a woman that can not “play” the teacher’s role but he in the first place “ a feeling human being” in front of the students, a person that can show emotional response.*

*For example, if the teacher is professionally good enough but does not take critics from the pupils constructively or does not explain why he thinks he is right this makes a huge gap between the students and the teacher. And when there is no emotional contact the learning cannot be called successful, for the students are not completely involved. When the teacher does not treat students as people that obey him, treats them like they are equal to him and explains equally to everybody it can really be a pointer of a “good” teacher. And one other very important thing is creativity. One of the indicators of a “good” teacher it is his desire to teach in a new, original form, adding something new and personal to make the learning process as exciting as it can possibly be. A bad teacher is a person that focuses only on the information he provides not taking into account the children or anything. It is a person that is doing its job. Such a person can be very good in the theoretical part of his subject but he will never have students being emotionally attached to him. It is a teacher that lets his personal mood influence on the way he treats his students, ect. That cannot reduce awkward situations with humor either it is him in the situation or his student. Being a good teacher is about loving children and wanting to give them only the best the teacher has inside of him.*

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