



WRITING AN ACADEMIC ESSAY

An essay is a short piece of writing that presents a writer's perspective on a broad topic or issue. An academic essay typically consists of an introduction, body paragraphs presenting supporting evidence, and a conclusion that summarizes the main points. Its purpose is to convey ideas, opinions, or information in a clear and organized manner.

STEPS OF WRITING AN ESSAY

STEP 1. PREWRITING

It is an important step in the writing process. Here you choose what to write about and you begin to think of and jot down ideas. For an academic essay, the prewriting step involves planning the key points (your controlling ideas). It also includes brainstorming specific types of evidence to support your ideas.

STEP 3. WRITING THE FIRST DRAFT

THE INTRODUCTION: The introductory paragraph in an essay contains three parts:

Introductory Paragraph

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|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Strategy• Background Information• Thesis Statement |
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a. An Opening Strategy that attracts the interest of the reader. Many writers begin with an interesting or surprising fact.

b. Background Information about the topic of the essay to help the reader understand and become interested in the topic. Before you begin, ask yourself, *‘what does the reader need to know about the topic? what information do I need to provide?’* Do not give too many details. You will develop or explain your topic with more detailed information in the body of the essay.

c. A Thesis Statement that presents the controlling (main) idea of the entire essay. It may be one or two sentences. It responds directly to the assignment and presents an idea that will be developed in the essay.

A successful thesis statement:

- presents the controlling idea of the entire essay
- responds to the assignment
- contains an idea that the writer will develop (explain) and support

EXAMPLE:

Assignment: Considering all the negative effects of tourism on the environment, should people continue to travel all parts of the world?

Thesis Statement: Even though these problems are serious, people who are careful to respect the environment should continue to travel because travelling offers many benefits to both the traveller and the destination region.



Introductory Paragraph:

Read the following introductory paragraph. Pay attention to the:

- interesting opening fact
- background information
- the thesis statement

Millions of people go on vacation to other countries, and this number is likely to increase in the future. Many people travel to discover new places, nature, wildlife, and different cultures, and to expand their knowledge of the world. However, too many tourists are starting to harm the environment, animals, and local communities in well-liked tourist spots. For example, more tourism is putting some rare animals at risk, and it is causing indigenous people to lose their homes. Even though these problems are serious, people who are careful to respect the environment should continue to travel because travelling offers many benefits to both the traveller and the destination region.

THE BODY

The body of an essay consists of one or more paragraphs in which you present and develop ideas to support your thesis statement. It is important to develop or explain your ideas clearly and to support them with specific details, such as facts and examples.

The Body

- Topic Sentences
 - *Controlling Ideas*
 - *Transitions between Ideas*
- Development and Support
 - *Examples*
 - *Facts and Figures*

Developing and Supporting the Thesis

If you look at the underlined ideas in the example thesis statement, you will notice that each idea needs to be developed and supported with specific details in the body paragraphs.

EXAMPLE:

Thesis Statement: Even though these problems are serious, people who are careful to respect the environment should continue to travel because travelling offers many benefits to both the traveller and the destination region.

Idea 1: ‘respect the environment’

Body Paragraph 1: ways for travellers to respect the environment

Idea 2: ‘many benefits’

Body Paragraph 2: benefits of tourism for the traveller

Body Paragraph 3: benefits of tourism for the tourist destination



Writing Topic Sentences

Body paragraphs usually begin with a topic sentence. The topic sentence clearly states the controlling idea of the paragraph without using the same words as the thesis statement.

EXAMPLE:

Thesis Statement: Even though these problems are serious, people who are careful to respect the environment should continue to travel because travelling offers many benefits to both the traveller and the destination region.

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph 1: There are many ways for ‘eco-friendly travellers’ to avoid harming the environment.

In the body paragraphs that follow, the topic sentence often provides a transition from the idea in the previous body paragraph.

EXAMPLE:

Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph 2: People who take care not to damage the environment in these important ways can still enjoy many benefits from travel.

In this case, the topic sentence:

- provides a transition from the previous paragraph:
‘People who are careful not to damage the environment in these important ways ...’
- and also states the controlling idea in the Body Paragraph 2:
‘... can still enjoy important benefits from travel.’

Sometimes entire sentence can provide a transition from the previous body paragraph.

EXAMPLE:

Beginning the Body Paragraph 3: It is not only the traveller who benefit from the transaction, but also in many cases, the destination city or region enjoy benefits too.

In this case:

- the first sentence provides a transition from the Body Paragraph 2:
‘It is not only the traveller who benefit from the transaction ...’
- and the second sentence states the controlling idea in the Body Paragraph 3:
‘... in many cases, the destination city or region enjoy benefits too.’

Developing a Body Paragraph

It is important to develop and support the controlling idea of each body paragraph. There are two important types of supporting evidence (details) to be developed in a body paragraph:

1. Examples: Most body paragraphs in an academic essay contain multiple examples because it usually takes more than one example to support a point. Examples may be one or more sentences.

2. Facts and Figures: An interesting paragraph must be more than a list of facts and figures. However, factual material that is appropriately used is one of the strongest kinds of evidence that a writer can include.



CONCLUSION:

The conclusion is where you return to the idea in the thesis statement in order to leave the reader with a strong impression and a clear idea about the topic. Writers usually restate the thesis in different words.

Conclusion

- Restated thesis
- Concluding strategy (encouraging the reader to take an action or reconsider the issue)

STEP 3. REVISING and EDITING

Revise your essay is an essential part of the writing process. This is your opportunity to be sure that your essay has all the important pieces and that it is clear.

Revising and Editing Checklist:

Did you ...

- open your essay with an interesting or surprising fact?
- express the controlling idea of the entire essay in your thesis statement?
- give enough background information in your introduction?
- develop ideas in your thesis statement in each of your body paragraphs?
- give enough supporting details, such as facts, figures, and examples, to support the controlling idea of each paragraph?
- restate the controlling idea of the entire essay in your conclusion?
- use an effective concluding strategy?
- use the appropriate verb forms?
- use correct punctuation and spelling?
- use collocations and other words correctly?
- give your essay a good title?

STEP 4. PREPARING THE FINAL DRAFT

After receiving feedback from the teacher, you prepare a clean copy of the final draft of your essay and hand it in to your teacher.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES TO BE USED

Here are some useful words and phrases that you can incorporate into your essay:

Introduction:

In today's society...

Over the years...

With the rapid advancement of...

It is undeniable that...

Body Paragraphs:

Firstly, it is important to consider...



Moreover, it should be noted that...
Additionally, research has shown...
Furthermore, it is crucial to understand...
Another key aspect to consider is...

Transition Phrases:

On the other hand, ...
In contrast to...
Likewise...
Similarly, ..

Concluding Remarks:

In conclusion, ...
To summarize, ...
As a result, ...

Remember, these words and phrases serve as tools to enhance the flow and coherence of your essay. It is essential to use them carefully and in appropriate contexts to maintain clarity and coherence throughout your writing.

SAMPLE ESSAY

You have read parts of this academic essay already. Now read the entire essay to see how the parts fit together.

ECO-FRIENDLY TRAVELLERS

Millions of people go on vacation to other countries, and this number is likely to increase in the future. Many people travel to discover new places, nature, wildlife, and different cultures, and to expand their knowledge of the world. However, too many tourists are starting to harm the environment, animals, and local communities in well-liked tourist spots. For example, more tourism is putting some rare animals at risk, and it is causing indigenous people to lose their homes. Even though these problems are serious, people who are careful to respect the environment should continue to travel because travelling offers many benefits to both the traveller and the destination region.

There are many ways for 'eco-friendly travellers' to avoid harming the environment. Many countries have options for short trips that do not harm the environment, but reduce their impact on global warming. In Europe, you can use bikes, or even walk or hike to get around by saving energy. Also, you can choose eco-friendly hotels. Most importantly, when visiting foreign countries, it is essential to respect indigenous people and their right to their ancestral lands.

People who take care not to damage the environment in these important ways can still enjoy many benefits from travel. Traveling can be as educational as school, especially during the summer when students need a break. "Ecotourism" is a great way to learn. For instance, you can explore a country on a bicycle. Travel can also strengthen family bonds by creating lasting memories. Parents can use the opportunity to teach their children about the lands and cultures.



It is not only the traveller who benefit from the transaction, but also in many cases, the destination city or region enjoy benefits too. Tourism can help a place economically by bringing in money and creating jobs. Additionally, tourism growth can lead to improved infrastructure like roads and better living conditions for local communities.

In conclusion, no amount of photos or videos can replace the unique experience of visiting places. So, those of us who are mindful of not causing harm should not complain about less comfortable accommodations or local restrictions. Our purpose is to learn, not to contribute to noise or pollution. We can explore the world while respecting its people and landscapes while embracing the adventure.

(379 words)

ASSIGNMENT

Choose one of the topics below to write a well-organised essay within 300-350 words.

1. How an individual's cultural identity shapes his/her personality and personal development.
2. The connection between personality traits and an individual's success in various aspects of life.
3. How social media platforms influence and shape an individual's identity.
4. What is the importance of recycling in reducing environmental impact?
5. What is the importance of regular exercise?

taken and adapted