

Essay Writing Tips

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Before you start writing...

Opinion that writing starts as soon as you start typing text is wrong. There is a long process, which precedes the writing itself.

There are several stages in the process of composing an essay.

We are going to start with the **prewriting stage**. This is the stage when you start preparation and considering your ideas before starting to write. The first thing you would have to start with will be the outline.

The whole prewriting stage could be divided into 6 main steps. Here are the steps you should follow in this stage:

1. Consider attentively all the things you are going to write about. You will have to answer the following questions for this purpose: what is the main

question to answer in each separate paragraph and in the whole essay? What could be the best way to answer them? What part of the essay is most important? What introductory sentence to use? How to build the thesis statement? What are the main ideas and fact to support this thesis? What are the techniques of making the essays and its separate paragraphs interesting to read? Where could you be able to find the main and additional information?

2. Answer all this questions in written form. Your writing should not be long, jut long and clear enough for you not to forget the things related to your essay.

3. Collect the fact and information concerning the topic of your essay. When you find something helpful – put it down. In order to save your time try to concentrate only the on facts related to your essay questions.

4. Think over your own ideas. Try to add your own thoughts to the found facts, try to understand why this topic could be interesting and useful for other people and what they would like to know about it. Try to imagine yourself on the place of the people who will writer your essay and think – will it be interesting for your to read it? What would you be glad to find in this paper?

5. Outline one main idea in your essay and in every paragraph. It should touch the most important point you talk about. It can be difficult sometimes to choose the main point, especially for each paragraph. In such cases try to stop on the most interesting point and stick to it throughout your essay.

6. Organize the facts and the ideas to support the main idea. You should think over the best ways to present the information about the main point in the essay or in separate paragraphs. Try to combine the information you have found with your own ideas. As soon as you have sorted out the ideas for your essay, concentrate on making the correct order of them in the essay.

They say that the very beginning is the most vital part of the essay, after reading the very first sentences of your work the readers would be able to decide whether they are interested in your writing or they will stop reading it as it is neither interesting nor useful. Here we are talking about the introduction paragraph – the first one in the essay. It should come out with the main idea of your essay and explain why this topic is so important. You should start with the thesis statement - this is practically the main idea of the essay, but as short as one sentence. Further, readers could find some background information, some interesting facts related to the topic, quotations and definitions of the

terms used in the paper for the proper understanding of them from the very beginning.

The main **body of the paper** consists of supporting paragraphs. These paragraphs help to develop the idea you are talking about. In order to write the body of your papers, you should:

1. First of all you will have to list all your points developing the main idea of the essay.
2. Each fact should have its own paragraph
3. Each point should be as well supported by facts and examples.

In order for the paragraphs to be connected in one complete essays you are to use the so-called transition words. Using these words will also make the essay easier to read. They usually belong to the beginning and to the end of the paragraph.

Below you will find some examples of such words:

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

Each paragraph should include topic sentence, supporting sentences and summary sentence at the end.

Actually the **summary paragraph** of your essay is as well important as the introductory one. This paragraph is also sometimes called – a conclusion.

It serves to summarize the main points of the essay and make the essay complete.

How to write it?

These tips will help you to write an interesting and informative conclusion.

1. Collect the strongest ideas and points of your essay supporting the main theme.
2. Repeat the main idea in different words.
3. Present your personal attitude to the matter or suggest even some new further actions.

Returning to the different stages of the work with the essay, we have to talk more about the writing stage itself, this stage helps you to bring your ideas into written sentences.

There are five steps in this stage as well:

1. Write the introduction with thesis statement and background information.
2. Add the supporting paragraphs with correct structure

3. Try to make sentences not too long and clear enough for expressing your ideas.
4. Don't forget to concentrate upon the main idea of your essay.
5. Use the dictionary in the cases you feel you can not find the necessary words.

The next stage will be the editing stage – during this stage the essay should be checked and all the grammar, stylistic and spelling mistakes are to be corrected.

Editing Steps:

Grammar and Spelling

1. Check your spelling.
2. Check your grammar.
3. Read your essay again.
4. Make sure each sentence has a subject.
5. Make sure your subjects and verbs agree with each other.
6. Check the verb tenses of each sentence.
7. Make sure that each sentence makes sense.

Style and Organization

1. Make sure your essay has an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a summary paragraph.
2. Check that you have a thesis statement that identifies the main idea of the essay.
3. Check that all your paragraphs follow the proper paragraph format.
4. See if your essay is interesting.

Essay types

There are different types of essays, we are going to talk about definition essay, sequence essay, classification essay, choice essay, description essay, explanation essay, compare and contrast essay and evaluation essay.

Definition Essay

In a definition essay, you have to 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 different 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 describing a series of events or a process in some sort of order. As a rule, this order is based on time. You organize the essay by writing about each step of the process in the order it took place.

Example question:	Write an essay outlining the stages of the salmon life cycle.
Introduction:	Describe what a salmon is like.
Supporting paragraphs:	1. Describe young salmon.
	2. Describe adult salmon.
	3. Describe what salmon do before they die.
Summary paragraph:	Summarize the main steps of the salmon 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 three types of government in Canada.
Introduction:	Give background information about government in Canada.
Supporting paragraphs:	1. Define and describe federal government.
	2. Define and describe provincial governments.
	3. Define and describe municipal governments.
Summary paragraph:	Summarize government in Canada

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 1890s and hockey today.
Introduction:	Introduce the game of hockey.
Supporting paragraphs:	1. Describe hockey in the 1890s.
	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 describe a person, place, or a thing. You have to organize the essay by describing different parts or aspects of the main subject.

Example question:	Write an essay describing the polar bear.
Introduction:	Introduce what a polar bear is.
Supporting paragraphs:	1. Describe where the polar bear lives.
	2. Describe the body of the polar bear.
	3. Describe what the polar eats.
Summary paragraph:	Summarize what a polar bear 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	Write an essay explaining why so many
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question:	Europeans moved
	to Canada during the early nineteenth century.
Introduction:	Give background information on European immigration during this time.
Supporting paragraphs:	1. Explain first reason: poor economy in Europe.
	2. Explain second reason: better living conditions in Canada.
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 Vancouver and Halifax.
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Introduction:	Introduce weather in the cities of Vancouver and Halifax.
Supporting paragraphs:	1. Compare weather in spring and summer for both
	cities. State how they are similar or different.
	2. Compare weather in fall and winter for both
	cities. 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 House of Commons.
Introduction:	Give your judgment on whether the House of Commons is important.
Supporting paragraphs:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain first criteria: meeting place for government 2. Explain second criteria: represent Canadians 3. Explain third criteria: make laws for Canada
Summary paragraph:	Conclude with an overall judgment about the House of Commons

We really hope that using our advice you will become a successful and creative writer and, what is even more important, will get pleasure from the writing process.

<http://essay-shop.com/> wishes you the best luck in essay writing!