

ESSAY CONTEST – HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY

“An essay is a way to tell the world through yourself and about yourself with the help of the world”

Vladimir Nabokov

Essay, from the French “essai” - attempt, trial, essay; from the Latin “exagium” – ascertain, weigh.

AN ESSAY is an independent creative writing work and the essay form usually represents a line of reasoning or thinking (less often, an explanation). Therefore, it uses a question-answer presentation, interrogative sentences, a series of related articles, an introduction and parallelism in the text.

AN ESSAY FEATURES:

- A specific topic or question;
- A personal reflection on how you perceive or understand the problem;
- Freeform composition;
- Light storytelling;
- Coherent logic;
- Aphorisms and personal feeling.



I. REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ESSAY

- 1 An essay should not exceed 1-2 pages.
- 2 An essays should be seen as a whole – the idea should be presented clearly and understandably.
- 3 Keep it short and clear. An essay should not contain anything superfluous and it should only have the information that you need to state your position or ideas.
- 4 An essay should have a clear, logical and coherent structure
- 5 Each paragraph of an essay should contain just one basic thought.
- 6 An essays should demonstrate that its author knows and can use theoretical concepts, terms, generalized and universal ideas in a meaningful way.
- 7 An essays should contain a convincing argument of the writer’s position on the chosen theme.

II. STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY

The structure of an essay is determined by what it requires:

- The author's thoughts on the issue should be outlined in the form of a short thesis (T);

&

- The author's position should be backed up with evidence to ensure that the thesis is followed by arguments (A).

A **THESIS** is a position that needs to be proved.

ARGUMENTS are facts, phenomena of everyday life, events, situations and life experiences, scientific evidence, the opinions of scientists and so on. It is better to give two arguments in favor of each thesis, following a structure, using pith and imagery.

So an essay ends up with a circular structure (the number of theses and arguments depends on the topic, the chosen outline, the logic of the development of the author's thoughts):

- *Introductory thesis,*
- *arguments supporting the thesis,*
- *a conclusion with a summation of the argument.*

Let's look at each of the components of an essay.

INTRODUCTION – this contains the substance and the reason for choosing your topic. It is very important here to formulate the question that you want to answer in the correct way.

&

THE BODY – this contains the answer to the question. Each paragraph contains a thesis statement, evidence, illustrations and conclusions that partly answer the main question posed in the introduction.

In the body, you must state your own point of view, and justify it.

Unlike an review of a work of art, an essay contains the author's point of view and his or her position on the issue being considered.

An essay should also make the reader think – surprise the reader, make an impression on him or her using vivid images, aphorisms, paradoxes.



III. COMMON MISTAKES WHEN WRITING AN ESSAY

Knowing the most common mistakes will help prevent you from making them when writing your own essay.

ERROR 1.

Being afraid of being misunderstood or not making the right impression can lead a writer to avoid anything personal or including significant details. This can make an essay lose its individuality and originality.

ERROR 2.

Lack of detail. A common mistake is using statements that do not argue the author's point of view or do not use enough examples and evidence.

ERROR 3.

Misunderstanding the essence of the issue being argued in the essay, or incorrectly interpreting the topic.

ERROR 4.

Repeating other people's opinions without giving them credit or otherwise not presenting your own unique point of view. The whole charm of the essay genre is the absence of strict rules. You have complete freedom to be creative. It is an opportunity to express your opinion and share your thoughts. Unusual and innovative solutions to common problems are commonly presented in essays and help to make this genre attractive for creative people who generate original ideas.

