

Essay

Operational definition. Discursive genre built from other authors' writings. The main modes of discourse used in its development are expository and argumentative writing. An essay is an academic text; Therefore, formal language is used. As it results from academic research work, it must show the synthesis of the ideas of the sources studied and the inferences drawn from their reading.

Structure elements

1. Brief and attractive title
2. Introduction
 - a. "Hook." It captures the reader's attention and introduces the topic in an interesting way.
 - b. Background. It provides the necessary context for the topic/problem to be addressed.
 - c. Thesis statement. It is a complete sentence that states the essay's topic as well as the author's position.
 - d. Preview (optional). It lists the main ideas to be discussed and points to the pattern of organization.
3. Body
 - a. Discussion of main idea 1
 - i. Topic sentence.
 - ii. Supporting ideas, which can be:
 - Explanations
 - Descriptions
 - Examples
 - Paraphrases or quotes
 - The authors' findings or arguments
 - The students' own inferences
 - b. Discussion of main idea 2
 - i. Topic sentence
 - ii. Supporting ideas, which can be:
 - Explanations
 - Descriptions
 - Examples
 - Paraphrases or quotes
 - The authors' findings or arguments
 - The students' own inferences
 - c. Discussion of main idea 3 (same format)
 - d. Student's final position
 - i. Student states his/her position.
 - ii. Student supports his or her position.

- Student establishes a relationship between his or her position and that of other authors (In agreement? In disagreement? Why?)
 - ii. Student reflects on the future consequences of the research, supporting such reflection with the development of similar situations.
4. Conclusion
 - a. Concluding signal (In conclusion, to summarize, etc)
 - b. Summary of the content
 - c. Closing remarks (quote, call to action, envisioning, etc.)
 5. References.

How is this done?

1. Choose a theme.
2. Prepare a preliminary draft.
3. Gather reliable sources of information on the subject.
4. Analyze the sources. Write a reading and a bibliography index card for each source.
5. Revise and adjust the outline according to the information you collected, if necessary, expand the sources of information.
6. Write a draft following the final outline. Be sure to observe the academic writing conventions as well as the APA 7 publication guidelines.
7. Set aside your draft for some time before editing and proofreading it.
8. Revise your draft using the checklist or rubric provided by your professor.
9. Edit and proofread the final draft to make sure you have followed both the academic and the APA publication guidelines.

General recommendations

- Keep in mind that the essay shows your level of understanding of a topic. Thus, you will need to offer clear and coherent explanations.
- Make sure your writing contains an introduction, a body with sections that are clearly defined by headings and subheadings, and a conclusion summarizing the general content and pointing to future challenges.
- Pay special attention to the following aspects of expository writing:
 - a. IBC structure: Introduction, body, and conclusion
 - b. Use of discourse markers to organize, link, or clarify ideas
 - c. Use of technical words that are specific to the topic being discussed
 - d. Use the least possible number of direct quotes and paraphrases; if possible, make sure they do not exceed 20% of the essay's total length.
- Remember that the essay title, the subtitle (if any), and any subheadings must relate to the subtopic being discussed.
- Include images illustrating or explaining the information in the body (optional).

To learn more

University of California in Los Angeles. (n.d). *Beyond High School Writing: Rethinking the 5-Paragraph Essay*. Undergraduate Writing Center. https://wp.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/UWC_handouts_beyond5paragraph.pdf

Essay Writing. (n.d). Purdue Online Writing Lab by Purdue University. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/index.html

Leal Isida, R.; Barranco Ortega, P. y Flores Guajardo, M. (2016). *Expresión verbal con fines específicos*. (2a edición). Editorial Digital Tecnológico de Monterrey.
Harvard University. (n.d). *Strategies for Essay Writing*. Harvard College Writing Center.
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/strategies-essay-writing>



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