

Characteristics of a Good Essay

A composition on a specific topic consisting of more than one paragraph is an essay. The characteristics of a good essay are:

- 1) Coherence:** The essay must deal with a main topic and all its parts should be clearly related to that topic.
- 2) Consequence:** the reasoning of the thought should be logical. This requires a logical connection between ideas, sentences and paragraphs.
- 3) Importance:** Irrelevant information should not be included.
- 4) Relationship:** Give important ideas more space.

Types of Essays

Essays are primarily ways of expressing your thoughts and ideas. Essays differ in how a person talks about their personal experience, describes a problem, or persuades the reader to accept a certain point of view. Thus, essays are mainly classified into four main types as mentioned below:

1) Narrative Essays: Narrative of a Story

When writing a narrative essay, students should think about a topic instead of telling a story. These essays allow them to express themselves creatively. These essays are usually written in the first person to engage readers.

2) Descriptive Essays: Painting a Picture with Words

In a descriptive essay, students must paint a picture with words. They have to describe something. It can be an object, a person, a place, an experience, a feeling, a situation or something else. These essays allow students a lot of artistic freedom.

3) Expository Essays: Presentation of Facts

An expository essay is an informative piece that presents a balanced analysis of a topic. To write a good expository essay, students must research the topic, evaluate the evidence, articulate an idea, and present the argument clearly and concisely. This can be done through comparison and contrast, definition, examples, cause and effect analysis, etc.

4) Persuasive Essays: Convince Me

A persuasive essay is one where the writer tries to persuade the reader to accept his point of view. It presents all sides of the argument, but clearly expresses the author's personal opinion.

Essay Writing Format

Now there is no rigid essay format. This is a creative process, so it should not be limited. However, there is a basic structure that is usually followed when writing essays.

Introduction

This is the first paragraph of your essay. Here the author presents his subject for the first time. You can give a very brief summary of your essay in the introductory paragraph. It is usually not very long, about 4-6 lines.

Body

This is the core of your essays. The body is the content of your essay between the introduction and the conclusion. So the gist of the essay is here. It doesn't have to be limited to one paragraph. Depending on the content, it can be two or more paragraphs.

Conclusion

This is the final paragraph of the essay. Sometimes the conclusion simply mirrors the introductory paragraph, but make sure the words and syntax are different. The conclusion is also a good place for a summary, story or argument. You can end your essay by giving a moral or ending a story. Be sure to end your essay with a conclusion, don't leave any dangling threads.

Writing Tips

- Give your essay an interesting and appropriate title. This will help grab the reader's attention and pique their curiosity
- Keep it between 300-500 words. This is the perfect length, you can take creative licence to increase or decrease it
- Keep the language simple and correct. Unnecessary complex and difficult words break the flow of the sentence.
- Do not make grammatical mistakes, use correct punctuation and spelling five times. Not doing so will distract the reader from the content

- Before starting the essay, organise your thoughts and make a rough outline. This way you can make sure the story flows and doesn't become a disorganised mess.
- Understand the topic thoroughly - Sometimes we draw a conclusion just by reading the topic once and then realise that the topic was different from what we wrote about. Read the topic as many times as necessary so that your opinion and understanding of the topic is consistent.
- Take Tips - Writing an essay is a daunting task because sometimes we lose our way of explaining and stray from the topic, leaving out important details. Thinking about all the things you want to discuss and then writing them down somewhere will help you cover everything you hoped to convey in your essay.
- Develop a plan and make word limits for essays and you must plan your content so that it is precise, well described and meets the given word limit. Track your words as you write so you always have an idea of how much more or less to write.

Essay Writing Guidelines

- The importance of coherence in essay writing is widely acknowledged as it ensures that the essay remains focused and on topic.
- Logical reasoning and a clear connection between ideas enhance the overall readability and persuasiveness of an essay.
- Including only relevant information helps maintain the reader's interest and keeps the essay concise.
- Allocating more space to significant ideas ensures they are thoroughly explored and understood.
- Narrative essays engage readers by allowing the writer to share personal experiences and stories creatively.
- Descriptive essays benefit from detailed, vivid descriptions that help the reader visualize the subject.
- Expository essays require thorough research and a balanced presentation of facts to inform the reader effectively.
- Persuasive essays aim to convince the reader by presenting arguments and evidence from multiple perspectives.
- While creativity is important, adhering to a basic structure helps organize thoughts and present them clearly.
- A concise introduction sets the stage for the essay and gives the reader a preview of what to expect.

- The body of the essay contains the main content and arguments, making it the most substantial part.
- A well-crafted conclusion ties together the essay's main points and provides a satisfying end.
- An engaging title attracts readers and sets the tone for the essay.
- A word limit ensures the essay is concise and focused, preventing it from becoming overly lengthy or brief.
- Simple and correct language improves clarity and readability.
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling are crucial for maintaining the essay's professionalism and readability.
- Organizing thoughts before writing helps create a logical flow and prevents disorganization.
- Thorough understanding of the topic is essential for writing a coherent and relevant essay.
- Planning and noting down key points helps ensure all important aspects of the topic are covered.
- Word limits and planning help maintain focus and ensure the essay meets the required criteria.

In conclusion, understanding the characteristics of a good essay is essential for effective writing. Coherence, logical reasoning, relevance, and the proper allocation of space to significant ideas form the backbone of a well-crafted essay. Recognizing the different types of essays—narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive—helps writers approach their topics appropriately and meet their objectives. Adhering to a basic essay format, which includes a compelling introduction, a well-developed body, and a conclusive end, ensures clarity and organization.

Writing an engaging essay also involves following practical tips, such as choosing an interesting title, maintaining a suitable length, using clear language, and avoiding grammatical errors. Pre-writing activities like organizing thoughts, understanding the topic thoroughly, and planning content are crucial steps in the writing process. By observing these guidelines and utilizing the provided endnotes for deeper insights, writers can enhance their skills and produce high-quality essays that effectively communicate their ideas and engage their readers.