

How to write an essay

The essay as an academic work gives the student the opportunity to express his or her own thoughts most fully, to reflect his or her personal considerations and ideas about the world - even if their source is only other people's works, not individual experience. It is good when the topic assigned by the teacher resonates in the soul (or an essay on a free topic is assigned), but this is not always the case - and then there are problems when writing an essay. This article will tell you how to write an essay correctly.

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Structure of an essay

The essay has not quite a standard structure. It should not have a table of contents, a list of references and, sometimes, even a title page. It is a free genre, which can be expressed by the author as he wants. The only condition that determines the structure of essay writing is logic. Everything must be structured according to the laws of logic. The scheme of essay writing does not change much regardless of the size and remains the same even in a mini essay.

Despite the fact that the essay has a free form, it has structural features. First of all, they are caused by the requirements of this genre:

All the author's thoughts must be stated in thesis statements;

Each thesis must be supported by arguments.

Arguments in this case are specific well-known facts, events, phenomena, objects, scientifically proven facts, etc. The author's phrase: "My grandmother told me about it" cannot be considered an argument. References to books or films are appropriate.

An average essay usually has a small size (the standard length is several sheets of A4), begins with a statement of the problem, followed by the statement of several (usually three) theses and 2-3 arguments to these theses. It all ends with a general conclusion.

An alternative form of writing is also possible. The statement of the problem remains the same. It is followed by the first thesis and arguments in its defense. And immediately comes a mini-conclusion on this thesis:

THESIS + ARGUMENT 1 + ARGUMENT 2 + ARGUMENT 3 + CONCLUSION

This sequence is repeated 2 or 3 times, depending on how many theses you operate with. And in the conclusion of this essay, there may not be a general conclusion.

There is also a third option, how to write an essay essay: add an opinion of the opposite side and the justification for its fallacy. This type of composition is more thorough and serious.

Essay outline

For those who do not know where to start writing an essay, it can be recommended to first make a plan for writing an essay. A written plan reflects the future structure of the essay; a plan defines how to compose an essay, serves as its framework. It is impossible to understand how to write an essay without first making a plan. Although the plan may change during the course of the work (and quite significantly), it is necessary to make a plan before writing an essay.

To make a plan, you need to research the topic. Once you have a good grasp of it, you'll need to go through the literature that fits the topic. Only after studying it will come time to think through the thesis statements and arguments, which is exactly what should be displayed in the plan.

Essay Writing Techniques

One of the main tasks of essay writing can be considered as convincing or inducing the reader. When an author decides to sit down for a paper, it means that he or she wants to either raise some problem or show that his or her proposed solution is the right one. Even if the essay in question is not an impulse of the soul, but an assignment from a teacher, either way it comes down to these problems.

The question of where to start writing an essay has a clear answer: with a plan. Let's assume that a plan is already in place - then a new difficulty arises. It is how to start writing the text itself, with what words to start the essay.

An essay is not an essay, and it is not addressed to an unprepared reader. Therefore, phrases like: "I want to talk about ...", "Today we will talk about ..." can be omitted. There is no need to overload the essay with unnecessary introductory phrases. In fact, there are no clear guidelines on how to start an essay correctly. This is not an article for Wikipedia, which should be designed according to a template. The author is free in how to write the introduction - but it should interest the reader, outline the problem that the text is devoted to.

Essay content

Unlike other student papers, essays do not have clear content requirements. Usually everything depends on the topic and the subject. Of course, it is impossible to say that there are no definite criteria for evaluation, so some requirements must be observed. The content of the text is reflected in its structure.

The structure of essays of this type is classic: introduction, main part, conclusion. This structure corresponds to the logic. So in the introduction introduce the reader to the problem that you're going to think about, introduce him to the case. In the main part you have to indicate his idea and to support it with two or three arguments. You can stop there and move on to the conclusion. But to make the essay look professionally done, you need to add one more part: the counter-opinion.

It shows that you are well-informed, that you know your way around the problem. The counter-opinion must also be supported by arguments. After this you must explain why this opinion is wrong. And only after that it's logical to complete the discussion.

With the knowledge of how to write an essay correctly, you will be able to avoid common mistakes and create an interesting and persuasive paper. It's easy enough to find essay writing samples on the Internet, but you should keep in mind that not all freely available papers are done to a high standard. Remain critical of the writings of anonymous authors.