

Essay Writing

Essay Characteristics

- Evidence based: Ideas based on credible published literature
- Academic writing style and formatting according to [APA style](#)
- Structured: introduction, body, conclusion, and references
- Logical flow of ideas

Essay Types

Descriptive/Expository

- describe and explain a subject or idea
- provide introductory, background, and contextual information
- do not establish relationships
- Comparative expository essays explain more than one idea or subject and highlight similarities and differences

Analytical

- Present multiple perspectives on a topic with the view to highlighting these perspectives without making judgement
- explore relationships of ideas or relationships between parts
- provide possible alternative situations and responses

Critical/Evaluative

- go beyond analysis by ascribing value or making a judgement on the quality of an idea, event, topic, argument, or perspective
- outline implications and solutions
- draw conclusions and makes recommendations

Argument

- present an evidence-based point of view with the purpose of persuading the reader

Reflective

- use a reflection or review model to document an experience, learning, or realisation that took place and how that learning will be adopted in the future

See the [Descriptive, Analytical, Critical/Evaluative, Reflective Writing Compared](#) study guide

Essay Structure

Introduction

- Allow 10% of the word count for the introduction
- Introduce the topic and gain the readers' attention
- Provide background/contextual information
- Introduce the reader to the main points covered in the essay and how these are addressed

Body

- Ensure flow of ideas using [transitional](#) words and [academic phraseology](#) to indicate the relationship of one idea to the next
- Maintain proper [paragraph](#) structure, with one main point per paragraph, and proper [sentence](#) structure
- Use [academic writing](#) and [APA style](#), and [integrate](#) information from credible sources

Conclusion

- Allow up to 15% of the word count for the conclusion
- Summarise the content covered in the body of the essay
- Do not add new information

References

- Use APA format for the [references](#)
- Use APA format for the [reference list](#)

Essay Writing Process

