

# Essay Writing

## Types of Essays

Understand the type of essay required as each serves a different purpose:

### a. Descriptive Essay

Purpose: to describe a person, place, object, or event

Features: describe who, what, when, where, and how (as appropriate)

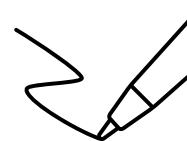
Examples: descriptions of scenarios or cases

### b. Expository Essay

Purpose: to explain or inform

Features: clear thesis, logical organisation, evidence-based

Examples: cause and effect, compare and contrast



### c. Analytical Essay

Purpose: to analyse a concept, text, or issue without making judgement

Features: focused analysis, interpretation, critical thinking, multiple perspectives, evidence-based

Examples: policy/framework/theory critique

### d. Reflective Essay

Purpose: to explore an experience and identify learning and future actions

Features: description and analysis, personal language, application of theory/learning

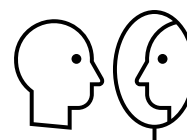
Examples: reflection on an event, placement experience, or learning activity

### e. Narrative Essay

Purpose: to tell a story or recount an experience

Features: personal tone, chronological structure, vivid details

Examples: personal reflections, pūrākau



### f. Argument Essay

Purpose: to persuade the reader of a particular viewpoint

Features: strong thesis, counterarguments, evidence-based, persuasive tone

Examples: debates on social issues, policy analysis

## Essay Structure

### Introduction (around 10% of word count)

- Start with the main topic
- Narrow the topic down, giving context, background, and overview of the topic
- Outline of the main thesis, argument, or purpose of the essay and how you will address this

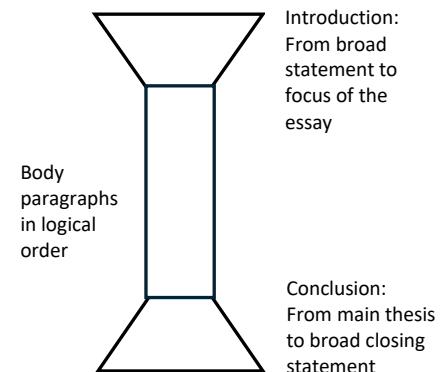
### Body Paragraphs (organised logically to fully address the topic)

Each paragraph has

- a topic sentence: main idea of the paragraph
- evidence/examples/explanation: support for the topic sentence with analysis or interpretation of the evidence
- transition: smooth link to the next paragraph

### Conclusion (around 10%-15% of the word count)

- Restate main thesis or purpose
- Summarise the main points (no new information)
- Close with a statement giving final insight, implication, or call to action



## Characteristics of a Good Essay

**Clarity:** ideas should be expressed clearly and concisely

**Coherence:** logical flow from introduction to conclusion

**Thesis statement:** A clear central argument or purpose

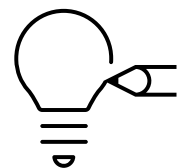
**Structured:** introduction, body, conclusion, and reference list

**Evidence:** ideas from credible sources or examples

**Critical thinking:** analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of ideas

**Formal tone:** academic language and style

**Referenced:** APA citation of all points with matching references



## Tips for Effective Essay Writing

- Begin several weeks before the essay is due
- Plan using outlines or mind maps
- Use academic sources (i.e., peer-reviewed journals and books)
- Draft and revise multiple times
- Proofread carefully
- Seek advice from an Academic Learning Advisor

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