

Essay Writing : Introduction to Essay Writing

Understanding the Basics of
Academic Essays

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Objectives of the Lecture

- -Define what an essay is
- -Identify types and purposes of essays
- -Understand the basic structure of an essay
- -Explore key features of effective academic writing

What is an Essay?

- An essay is a short piece of writing focused on a particular subject. It expresses the writer's point of view, supported by evidence, and is structured around a central argument or thesis. Essays are used to inform, persuade, explain, or entertain.

Importance of Essay Writing in Academia

- -Demonstrates understanding of a topic
- -Develops critical thinking and analytical skills
- -Improves written communication
- -Essential for exams, assignments, and research

Types of Essays

- -Descriptive: Describes a person, place, or event
- -Narrative: Tells a story or personal experience
- -Expository: Explains a concept or topic
- -Argumentative: Presents arguments on an issue

Structure of a Basic Essay

- -Introduction: Presents the topic and thesis
- -Body Paragraphs: Develop the argument with evidence
- -Conclusion: Summarizes and restates the thesis

The Essay Triangle

- Use a funnel approach:
- -Introduction: Broad to narrow focus
- -Body: Focused argument with supporting evidence
- -Conclusion: Summarize and broaden implications

Features of a Good Essay

- -Clear central argument (thesis)
- -Logical organization
- -Well-developed paragraphs
- -Evidence-based
- -Academic tone and citation

Common Mistakes in Essay Writing

- -Unclear thesis
- -Poor transitions
- -Over-generalizations
- -Grammar and punctuation errors
- -Plagiarism or improper citation

Summary

- Essays are structured academic writings that serve various purposes.
- Effective essays require planning, organization, and clarity.
- Understanding types and structure is the foundation.

Practice Task

- Identify the essay type for each prompt:
- .1Describe your favorite place to relax.
- .2Discuss the effects of social media on youth.
- .3Tell a story about a childhood memory.
- .4Argue for or against school uniforms.

Thank You & Next Lecture Preview

- Thank you for attending this session.
- Next Lecture: 'Writing an Effective Introduction'
- Q&A / Discussion