

5.4 Writing

Essay Writing

An essay is generally a short piece of writing outlining the writer's perspective. It is considered synonymous with a paper or an article. Essays can be formal as well as informal

Formal essays are generally academic in nature and tackle serious topics. Informal essays are personal or humorous. Narrative Essays narrate a story or an incident. Descriptive essays describe a place, an event or an object. Expository essays give a balanced view of the topic. Persuasive essays persuade the reader to accept the point of view expressed in an essay.

Format of an Essay

There is no rigid format to write an essay since "it is a loose sally of the mind" as said by the writer, Dr. Johnson. It is a creative process. However, there is a basic structure that is generally followed while writing essays.

Introduction

This is the first paragraph of an essay. This is where the writer introduces his topic.

It gives a very brief synopsis of your essay. Generally, it is not very long and consists of about 4-6 lines.

The quotations by famous personalities or raising a question tempts the people to read an essay. They give a good start. "Good beginning makes a good end". "Well begun is half won"

Body

This is the main crux of your essays and the most vital and important content of the essay will be here. It can extend to two or more paragraphs according to the content or information that a person has. The information has to be arranged properly. It should have coherence. It should not be written unorganised or in a haphazard manner because it may leave the reader confused. It is important to organize and prioritize points. Write the

information in a systematic flow so that the reader can comprehend. So, for example, when narrating an incident, it is better to do it in a chronological order.

Conclusion

This is the last paragraph of the essay. Sometimes a conclusion will just mirror the introductory paragraph but make sure the words and syntax are different. A conclusion is also a great place to sum up a story or an argument. You can round up your essay providing some moral or wrapping up a story. Make sure you complete your essays with conclusion, leave no hanging threads.

Tips for Writing Essays

Give your essays an interesting, catchy and appropriate title.

Keep the length of the essay between 300-500 words

Keep your language simple and crisp.

Do not make grammar mistakes.

Use correct punctuation and spelling.

Brainstorm the points.

Write all points or information what you know about the topic

Enumerate the points according to their significance.

Add quotations or sayings by experts in the specific field.

Before beginning the essay, organize your thought and plan a draft

Start a new paragraph when a sequence of thought changes towards different information.

Preparing a rough draft and refining into a better essay in fair draft gives us an interesting essay.

Sample Essay

Electronic Media has a Great Impact on the Young Generation. Write an Essay of 300 words on the positive and negative impact of it on the youth. Give suggestions to make it more productive and useful to the young generation (AU, May 2015)

One of the notable changes in our social environment in the 20th and 21st centuries has been the mass media. In this new environment, radio, television, movies, videos, video games, cell phones and computer networks have assumed central roles in our children's daily lives. For better

or worse the mass media are having an enormous impact on our children's values, beliefs, and behaviors.

The technology has developed in leaps and bounds. The children can widen their knowledge by accessing the internet. Everyone can develop their knowledge by learning from the internet. There are many on line courses from foreign university and the students can get the certificates through online by learning such courses. E-newspapers are available to enhance one's knowledge of current affairs. One can improve their communication skills by listening to TED talks. One can learn different accents like British accent and American accent.

Many students learn foreign languages and get employment opportunities. E- business is done through internet. People buy and resell products of their choice. There are many advantages of electronic media. Every coin has two sides. There are disadvantages also.

Unfortunately, the consequences of one particular common element of the electronic mass media has a particularly detrimental effect on children's wellbeing. Research evidence has accumulated over the past half- century that exposure to violence on television, movies, and most recently in video games increases the risk of violent behaviour on the viewer's part. Correspondingly, the recent increase in the use of mobile phones, text messaging. e-mail, and chat rooms by our youth have opened new venues for social interaction in which depression can occur and youth can be victimized - new venues that break the old boundaries of family, neighbourhood, and community that might have protected our youth to some extent in the past. This globe spanning electronic communication media may really introduce new psychological threats to our children.

If a person uses the electronic media positively, he will be benefitted. If a person uses negatively, he will land in problems. There are many merits and demerits. The people will have to use it for learning purposes. Without revealing the personal details, one can use it for financial purposes also, Safety and security should be our motive. There are cyber crimes. With our cautious approach, we can use the electronic media effectively.