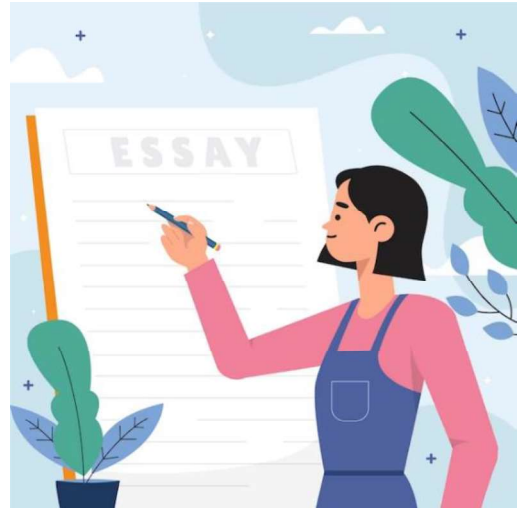


UNIT3. WRITING ESSAYS

CONTENT

1. *Definition, collocations, interesting facts.*
2. *Types of the essays.*
3. *Structure of an essay.*
4. *Tips, useful phrases, sentence starters for writing essays.*
5. *Examples.*



1. DEFINITION

ESSAY - noun UK, (US paper)

UK /'es.eɪ/ US /'es.eɪ/

a short piece of writing on a particular subject, especially one done by students as part of the work for a course.

e.g. For homework I want you to write an essay on endangered species.

Mr Jones thought my history essay was terrific.

I want to finish off this essay before I go to bed.

Synonyms: article, composition, paper, theme



COLLOCATIONS WITH “ESSAY”

These are words often used in combination with “essay”:

autobiographical essay
bibliographic essay
brief essay
critical essay
essay contest
extended essay
hnumerous essays
original essay
personal essay

photo essay
photographic essay
present essay
scholarly essays
short essay
written essay
humorous essay
introductory essay



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ESSAYS:

Etymology: The word "essay" comes from the French word "essayer," which means "to try" or "to attempt." This reflects the idea that an essay is an attempt to express one's thoughts on a particular subject.

Michel de Montaigne: Often regarded as the father of the essay, Michel de Montaigne, a 16th-century French philosopher, is known for popularizing the literary form. His collection of essays titled "Essais" is considered a classic.

Evolution of the Essay Form: The essay form has evolved over centuries. From the early, more formal, and structured essays, the form has shifted to include personal reflections, experiences, and a more conversational style in modern times.

Genres of Essays: Essays come in various forms and genres, such as narrative essays, descriptive essays, expository essays, persuasive essays, and argumentative essays. Each serves a different purpose and has a unique style.

Francis Bacon: Another influential figure in the development of the essay was Francis Bacon, an English philosopher, statesman, and scientist. His essays,

published in 1597 and 1625, explored diverse topics and were characterized by a concise and aphoristic style.

Length Variation: Essays can vary greatly in length. While some may be just a few hundred words, others, especially in academic settings, can be several thousand words long.

Montaigne's Self-Reflective Style: Montaigne's essays were notable for their self-reflective nature. He often delved into his own thoughts, experiences, and emotions, which was a departure from the more objective and formal writing of his time.

Informality and Flexibility: Essays are known for their informality and flexibility. Unlike more rigid academic forms, essays allow for a more personal and exploratory approach to a subject.

Essay Contests: There are numerous essay contests held worldwide, covering a wide range of topics. These contests often encourage writers to express their thoughts creatively and persuasively.

Essayists Across Cultures: The essay form is not exclusive to Western literature. Many cultures have their own rich traditions of essays, exploring diverse themes and perspectives.

Famous Essayists: Besides Montaigne and Bacon, there are many other famous essayists. Some notable figures include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, Joan Didion, and James Baldwin, among others.

Remember, these facts highlight the diverse and fascinating nature of essays as a literary form. Whether used for self-expression, persuasion, or exploration of ideas, essays continue to be a powerful means of communication.



2. TYPES OF THE ESSAYS

An academic essay is a focused piece of writing that develops an idea or argument using evidence, analysis, and interpretation. [2]

There are many types of essays you might write as a student. The content and length of an essay depends on your level, subject of study, and course requirements. However, most essays at university level are argumentative - they aim to persuade the reader of a particular position or perspective on a topic.

The essay writing process consists of three main stages:

- **Preparation:** Decide on your topic, do your research, and create an essay outline.
- **Writing:** Set out your argument in the introduction, develop it with evidence in the main body, and wrap it up with a conclusion.
- **Revision:** Check the content, organization, grammar, spelling, and formatting of your essay.

So What Is an Essay? An essay is a piece of short-form, nonfiction writing that focuses on a specific topic. Writers typically use the essay format to argue a thesis or to provide their viewpoint on a subject.

Essays come in many different forms — from persuasive essays, which make an argument, to narrative essays, which tell a story. Essays can be any length, ranging from one paragraph to many pages, and can be formal or informal. [3]

Most students meet certain problems when it comes to essay writing. The main reason for this is that they don't fully understand what it should be like.

- ✓ An essay is aimed to show your personal opinion about the subject.
- ✓ It should also contain a message to convey, and it is to have a purpose.
- ✓ You have to consider different points of view and write your essay with the sense of full understanding of the topic.[4]

There are 6 basic types of essays that are widespread in the world of academic writing. They are:

1. descriptive essay
2. compare and contrast essay
3. narrative essay
4. argumentative essay
5. expository essay
6. persuasive essay



1. Descriptive Essay

This type of essay is designed for describing details of the subject. It can be written about any object and its features. You are to describe the way it looks, smells or works. It can be compared with a detailed overview of the things you write about. In this type of essay, every detail counts.

2. Compare & Contrast Essay

This type of essay is aimed to dwell upon on differences and similarities between two objects, events, things, etc. The reader should receive a clear understanding of what certain things have in common and what is different about them. The writer has to be well informed about both subjects in order to provide the reader with a clear comparison of the two subjects.

3. Narrative Essay

This type of essay is aimed at telling a story about a certain event in a person's life. It may be a funny festival or a watching a good movie in the cinema, everyday activity or visiting another country. In such essay, you are free to express your personal attitude towards things that affected you, places that you liked or people you were with. It is usually written in the 1st person with a frequent usage of "I."

4. Argumentative Essay

When it comes to this type of essay, it should be noted that it is quite useful for any student on any level of education. The ultimate goal of this essay is to persuade the reader to take the author's viewpoint. It is not an easy thing to do as this paper is aimed at manipulating the other people's thoughts to change their attitude towards something.

For this writing, you are to use firm language, proved facts and accurate and vivid illustrations as an evidence of your argument should be flawless. Stripped of these items your argumentative essay won't be persuasive enough and your influence on the reader will be minimal. Skilled writers are to be completely sure about every word they write and every fact they give. There is no room for mistakes and uncertainty. What makes this type of essay more difficult is that you have to be ready to fight against opposing ideas, and your paper should contain the antidote to the critics of your viewpoint.

5. Expository Essay

When it comes to an expository essay, keep in mind that it is aimed at an estimation of the subject from your point of view. That is why it requires research to be carried out. It is not an easy type of essay as your knowledge of the subject has to be based not only on the information you get from someone else but mostly on your own experience.

This type of essay can give you skills in organizing and manner of doing your own research. This practice is by no means very important as it can lead you to results that can be groundbreaking. It may take lots of time, but it is worth doing. Surprisingly, this feature makes this paper easier at the same time. In fact, it is more comfortable to write about something you know well and something you are sure about than digging into the information that was received from someone else. Perhaps you could contribute something new to the subject and show something that was never seen before.

Don't forget that your opinion is the foundation of your essay. Though, your paper should be long extensive and well written.

6. Persuasive Essay

This type of essay is opposite to an argumentative essay. It is aimed at changing the readers' point of view completely, taking the author's one as an axiom. It is a stronger and more difficult type of essay as it requires a better understanding of the subject and good skills in criticizing the opponents.

In most cases, persuasive essays deal with topics that are relevant here and today. A persuasive essay should be very tough and influential. By writing it, you show that you are really good at something and that you are sure that your opinion is ultimately correct. You may lose your audience the very moment you lose your integrity.

Remember that your essay has to be solid as a wall because your personal traits have no influence on a reader. It doesn't matter how you look, speak or wear. The only weapons of yours are words. Your audience should want to accept your viewpoint as the only one that makes sense.

It is not an easy task to do. That is why it requires much practice. It is a long way to master your language to influence other people with it, but this skill is highly

important in many aspects of life. Don't worry if your first results will not be good enough. The more you try, the better you become.

