

Narrative Essay

Writing a narrative essay is basically writing a story connected with personal experiences. In fact, narrative is another word for story. Even though the narrative essay has the same basic form as most other academic essays, it allows the writer to be a little more creative than academic essays usually do. Narratives can tell long stories or just a few minutes' worth of excitement. It is often written from the first person "I" and aims always to create a sense of shared history, to provide entertainment, to offer instruction, and to provide insight all this presented in a chronological order.

While the narrative essay has a particular structure, narrative ideas are often used in different writing tasks, such as argument or compare-contrast. One of the most significant ways to distinguish these from more common academic essays is to notice that a narrative essay always has a character experiencing a series of events, whereas an academic essay is primarily analysis of concepts or data. On the other hand, the narrative essay's emphasis on a series of events distinguishes it from the descriptive essay, which focuses rather on the experience of a single event, or even a single moment. A narrative essay is a bit like a movie, while a descriptive essay is like a photo.

Structure of a Story: Several important elements make up a good story:

Setting: The setting is the location where the action in a story takes place.

Theme: The theme is the basic idea of the story. Very often the theme will deal with a topic that is common in life or human nature, such as independence, envy, courage, failure, and success.

Mood: The mood is the feeling or atmosphere that the writer creates for the story. It could be happy, hopeful, suspenseful, or scary. Both the setting and descriptive vocabulary create the mood in a narrative.

Conflict: is the central struggle between characters or competing forces, It aims to create tension in the story, making readers more interested by leaving them uncertain which of the characters or forces will prevail.

Plot: The plot is what happens in the story, that is, the sequence of events. The plot often includes a climax or turning point at which the characters or events change.

Characters: The characters are the people in the story. They are affected by the mood of the story, and they react to the events in which they are involved.

Point of view: the angle from which the story is told.

Just like other types of essays, an effective narrative essay also includes these elements:

- A thesis; that sets up the action in the introduction
- Transition sentences: that connects events and help the reader follow the story
- A conclusion: that ends the story action and provides a moral, prediction, or revelation

Verb Tense: The other thing that keeps the narrative's boundaries properly defined is being sure to use the correct verb tense. Since a narrative typically recounts events that happened at some earlier time in the writer's life, the narrative voice should be primarily in past tense. Sometimes people make the mistake of trying to write a narrative in present tense, but this is usually not correct.

Example:

***WRONG:** "It's the day of my wedding, and all of the arrangements have been made, but I'm very nervous."

*** RIGHT:** "It was the day of my wedding, and all of the arrangements had been made, but I was very nervous."

***The only time you should use present tense in a narrative is when you are looking back on the events and reflecting on them (usually in the conclusion). Even then, you still need to include some kind of transition.**

For example, "Ten years later, I still think of that day sometimes, and I still feel just the same way about him now as I did back then."

*** The present-tense reflection on the past-tense events of the narrative can be a very effective technique for concluding a narrative essay, but it only works if transitions are applied between past and present**

Structure of Narrative Essay:

I- Introduction: the introduction of a narrative essay is the paragraph that begins your story. In the introduction, you describe the setting, introduce the characters, and prepare your audience for the action to come. Of course, the introduction should have a hook and a thesis.

1-The Hook: The idea behind the hook is simple, catch the attention of the readers. One has to bear in mind this is the first statement of the essay and therefore it is the one which sets the pace. This is to mean, depending on the creativity of the hook, the reader may decide to read on or not the rest essay. Hooks are especially important in narrative essays because they help set the stage for the story

As such, the author has to make sure the hook is as interesting and thought provoking as possible. The hook in essence takes several forms and the author has the freedom to choose the one that best delivers the kind of interest they would want to stir up in the readers. The hook may take the form of a quotation, fact, question or even a definition, either of which must be relevant to the rest of the story

2- The Setting: the author has to make sure that he prepares the reader for the story. The setting is basically for letting the reader understand the story. It contains the right information, Aspects such as the major characters, when the events took place and where are included in this part of the narrative essay introduction. As such, the readers are able to follow with clarity the events that then follow

3-The Thesis Statement: plays a rather different role, than the one it plays in other essays such as, expository or argumentative essays. The author has the freedom of using the thesis statement to identify the theme that will easily connect with the story and further give a universal experience. Ideally the story is supposed to speak to a universal audience and thus the thesis statement is one of the best chances the author can use to get the readers from different walks of life to connect with the events deliberated in the essay. However the thesis introduces the action that begins in the first paragraph of the essay. Look at these example thesis statements:

a -Now, as I watched the bus driver set my luggage on the airport sidewalk, I realized that my frustration had only just begun.

b-I wanted my mother to watch me race down the steep hill, so I called out her name and then nudged my bike forward.

II-The Body: it may be composed of several paragraphs, depending on the amount details that the story is built on. However there is the general format, where in the first part of the paragraph is the **topic sentence** (which introduces the readers to the rest of the content). The most important aspect to consider is about the topic sentence, it's supposed to be associated with all the senses of the author Ideally, the opening statement is supposed to show that the author did not just see an event take place, but rather, they also heard and felt some emotional element. Example, the author may point out

My heart skipped, when I heard something move in the woods, I looked around and everything in the shadows seemed to move.

This is a statement that involves most of the senses and also brings out the element of suspense, such that, the readers would want to know what happened after. This is a crucial aspect of the narrative essays suspense. The other section of the body paragraph is the evidence supporting the thesis statement. Ideally, the content of this part is supposed to indicate to the readers the lessons learned in support of the thesis statement. In the body paragraphs, the author has the freedom of to bring together the various events in a chronological manner. Sometimes the author may choose to bring the different parts into one, but with different parts interchanging on the timeline. The most important part of flow of events is that the author should use transition words for a narrative essay, to connect the different ideas. Transitions are crucial in the narrative essays, due to the fact that, every new paragraph marks the start of a different action in the story.

III- Conclusion: according to the narrative essay structure, the last part of the narrative essay is the conclusion, which brings the story to end. In this section the author uses to bring out the moral of the story. This means he brings out the reflection on the events which took place, or what the readers can learn.

THE DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY

A descriptive essay is an essay that describes something – an object or person, an event or place, an experience or emotion, or an idea. This genre allows a great deal of artistic freedom. It appeals strongly to the five senses (touch, taste, sight, sound, smell) and uses details to provide the reader with a vivid idea or picture of what is being represented and to paint an image that is moving in the mind of the reader. Descriptive essays test your ability to use language in an original and creative way, to convey to the reader a memorable image of whatever you are describing.

Even though there are countless topics for a descriptive essay, a writer only has to use two types of description:

a. Concrete: something concrete is something that you can see, touch or taste, hear, or smell – in other words, something concrete can be described with your senses.

b. Abstract: Describing an abstract topic is more challenging. Ideas and emotions are abstract topics – they cannot be touched. Therefore, it is difficult to describe them with our senses. In order to write a descriptive essay of this type, writers often turn to context – experiences or situations – that point the reader towards understanding the topic.

Basic characteristics of the descriptive essay

A descriptive essay will usually focus on a single event, a person, a location or an item. When you write your essay, it is your job to convey your idea about that topic through your description of that topic and the way that you lay things out for your reader. You need to show your reader (not tell them) what you are trying to describe by illustrating a picture in their mind's eye very carefully.

1-Sensory Details: good descriptive writing includes many sensory details that paint a picture and appeals to all reader's sense .when writing you have to make your readers 'see' /feel your topic with different senses.

Example:

Draft: I spent yesterday in the park. I saw many trees, and a group of small children playing. One boy wore a red shirt. I also saw people sitting in the shade.

Revision: I spent yesterday in the park. I saw many trees, and I heard the shout of children playing a game. The sun was burning brightly, and I ended up in the shade to cool off.

2-figurative language: it consists of devices like metaphor and simile that use words in non-literal ways to create a memorable effect. This is essential in a descriptive essay; it's what gives your writing its creative edge and makes your description unique.

Draft: The trees grew close together, and their branches touched above the winding dirt path.

Revision: All along the path, the trees grew close together, and their branches touched **like old friends holding hands**

3- Consider your point of view: Many descriptive essays use a simple look at their topic, but sometimes a creative point of view lets your readers see the topic in a new light. For instance, you can describe a tree from the point of view of a bird, or items in your bedroom described by a person from the past. Writing a descriptive essay with a creative point of view can be very effective.

Example:

Draft: *I walked along a dirt path, lined by trees on each side. Some people here were riding their bikes, and the dust floated in the air.*

Revision: *I walked along a dirt path, lined by trees on each side. A bird chirped above me, and I wondered what it saw from up in its nest. The dirt path cut straight through his neighborhood, and I imagined the chirping bird as a grumpy man yelling at us. The zooming bicycles must seem like strange animals to the bird.*

4-A dominant Impression: creating a dominant impression is the overall attitude, mood, or feeling about the subject, such as causing the readers to sympathize with you about a sad event that happened or to agree with you strongly on a certain controversial topic.

5-Choose the right words: Writing descriptively involves choosing your words carefully. The use of effective adjectives is important, but so is your choice of adverbs, verbs, and even nouns.

It's easy to end up using clichéd phrases—"cold as ice," "free as a bird"—but try to reflect further and make more precise, original word choices. Clichés provide conventional ways of describing things, but they don't tell the reader anything about your unique perspective on what you're describing. Try looking over your sentences to find places where a different word would convey your impression more precisely or vividly

6-Organizing

Extended description that lacks organization has a confusing, surreal quality and easily loses readers' interest, so choose an organizational plan. Use whatever progression seems logical—left to right, inside to outside, top to bottom—and stick to it. For example, it does not make sense to describe a person's facial features and hair, then his sonorous voice and impressive vocabulary, and then return to details about his eyebrows and glasses.

Cause and Effect Essay (also called causal analysis)

The cause/effect essay explains why or how some events happened, and what resulted from the events. This essay is a study of the relationship between two or more events or experiences.

A cause essay discusses the reasons why something happened. It analyzes what causes certain things to happen, or the results brought about by certain events. For example, you may want to write an essay about an event that happened and then tell how it affected your life. This would tell the cause (the event) and the effect (how it affected your life).

Examples: A cause/effect essay may explain . . .

** why a volcano erupts, and what happens afterwards*

The Purpose of Cause and Effect in Writing

A cause is something that produces an event or condition; an effect is what results from an event or condition. The purpose of the cause-and-effect essay is to determine how various phenomena relate in terms of origins and results. Sometimes the connection between cause and effect is clear, but often determining the exact relationship between the two is very difficult. For example, the following effects of a cold may be easily identifiable: a sore throat, runny nose, and a cough. But determining the cause of the sickness can be far more difficult. A number of causes are possible, and to complicate matters, these possible causes could have combined to cause the sickness. That is, more than one cause may be responsible for any given effect. Therefore, cause-and-effect discussions are often complicated and frequently lead to debates and arguments.

Remark

Use the complex nature of cause and effect to your advantage. Often it is not necessary, or even possible, to find the exact cause of an event or to name the exact effect. So, when formulating a thesis, you can claim one of a number of causes or effects to be the primary, or main, cause or effect. As soon as you claim that one cause or one effect is more crucial than the others, you have developed a thesis.

The Structure of a Cause-and-Effect Essay

The cause-and-effect essay opens with a general introduction to the topic, which then leads to a thesis that states the main cause, main effect, or various causes and effects of a condition or event.

The cause-and-effect essay can be organized in one of the following two primary ways:

1. Start with the cause and then talk about the effects.

2. Start with the effect and then talk about the causes.

For example, if your essay were on childhood obesity, you could start by talking about the effect of childhood obesity and then discuss the cause or you could start the same essay by talking about the cause of childhood obesity and then move to the effect.

Regardless of which structure you choose, be sure to explain each element of the essay fully and completely. Explaining complex relationships requires the full use of evidence, such as scientific studies, expert testimony, statistics, and anecdotes.

Because cause-and-effect essays determine how phenomena are linked, they make frequent use of certain words and phrases that denote such linkage.

For example: To explain reasons and results, we use: As a result, as a consequence, Consequently, So, Since, As, Because, thus/ hence/One reason why .../ One of the most important reasons why .../The main reasons why .../

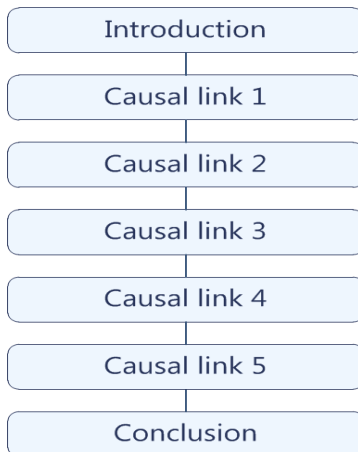
The conclusion should wrap up the discussion and reinforce the thesis, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of the relationship that was analyzed

Cause and Effect essay types

Considering the right structure for your essay is one of the key points of success. Sticking to a recommended essay structure is the only way to properly outline and write it, paragraph by paragraph from the introduction to conclusion, without mistakes. Depending on the kind of relation between causes and effects, your essay can be organized by one of the three patterns: "Multiple Causes, One Effect" pattern, "One Cause, Multiple Effects" pattern and "Causal Chain (Domino)" pattern

1-Multiple Causes One Effect pattern:

This pattern deals with the situation when one effect is a result of multiple causes. It contains five paragraphs: introduction, conclusion, and three paragraphs, each one describing one of the causes, leading to the effect.



Eg: thesis statement: Air pollution is caused by the following factors: exhaust gases from cars, uncontrolled factory releases, and burning of low-quality coal for heating.

I. exhaust gases from cars

A. government does not have enough control

B. citizens are not conscientious

II. uncontrolled factory gases

A. no regular checks on gases released

B. factories are inside the borders of residential areas

III. burning of low-quality coal for heating

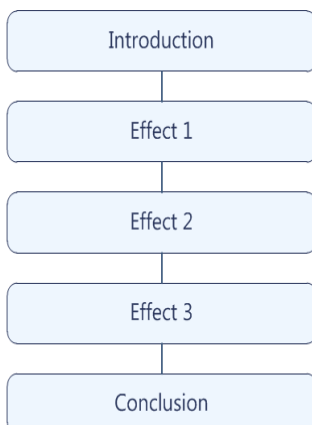
A. no governmental control

B. other forms of energy too expensive

-Each developmental paragraph is devoted to one of the causes of air pollution. Each cause is supported by two minor supports. While writing, these major and minor ideas should be adequately explained and exemplified as well.

2-One Cause Multiple Effects:

This pattern should be used when one cause leads to multiple effects. It contains five paragraphs: introduction, conclusion, and three paragraphs, each one describing one of the effects, the cause is leading to.



Eg: Thesis statement: Watching too much TV is one of the major sociological issues of this century, which has many effects on the physiology and psychology of people.

I. eating disorders

A. TV meals

B. obesity

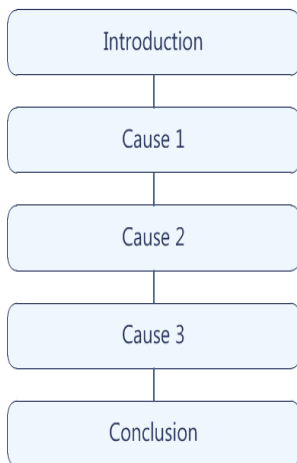
II. Communication problems

A. more violence

B. no interpersonal talk

-Again, we have grouped related effects under two main points: physiological and psychological. Then, we have supported each effect with two minor supports (A and B). While writing, we should explain these major and minor supports by giving examples and/or defining what we mean, as well.

3-Causal Chain (Domino): Sometimes a cause leads to a situation and that situation leads to another situation and so on. In this pattern, the events lead to one another, as in the following organization:



Eg:

Thesis statement: Using deodorants with chlorofluorocarbon gas will bring the end of world.

I. Chlorofluorocarbon gases are contained in most deodorants and released by some factories into the air.

II. This gas causes the ozone layer to become thinner and finally disappear in patches.

III. The unfiltered ultraviolet rays of the sun cause overheating in the poles of the earth, where the icebergs start to melt.

IV. The huge amount of water released from the poles leads to a rise in the sea-level.

V. The sea will cover the land and this will be the end of the world.

-Again, each major point should be supported with examples, statistics that show that there are some factories and deodorants that release chlorofluorocarbons, that there is a rise in the sea-level, etc.

Sample cause and effect essay

EFFECTS OF WATCHING TOO MUCH TV

Discoveries and invention of devices are always welcome till we, humans, find a way to abuse its benefits and be adversely affected by it. This was the case when Wilhelm Roentgen discovered x-ray and within five years, the British Army was using a mobile x-ray unit to locate bullets and shrapnel in wounded soldiers in the Sudan. TV was also invented with positive thoughts in mind – there would be no national borders, education and communication would be worldwide, etc. However, we are now trying to overcome its physiological and psychological adverse effects on human beings.

One of the physiological effects of watching TV in excessive amounts is eye-strain. It is true that there are specifications for watching TV; TV should be 5 m. away from the eye, the room should be adequately lit, TV should be placed at the same height with our eyes, etc. However, these do not prevent our eyes from getting tired if we keep watching TV for a long time. Another effect is obesity, which is widely observed in people who like watching TV and eating snacks everyday (there is even a term “TV snacks” to refer to fast food that is suitable for eating in front of the TV). TV is such a powerful machine that people cannot get away from it – it is addictive.

Apart from the physiological effects, TV also causes psychological effects. One is a result of being exposed to violence. After seeing so many violent scenes on TV, people start considering violent actions normal and they lose their sensitivity to their environment. Partly connected to this effect, the interpersonal communication among people decreases. Being insensitive to the suffering of other people causes people to become alienated. Also, after coming home from work people seek to relax in front of the TV, and generally people prefer watching TV to talking to each other. This issue is very important since lack of interpersonal relationships mostly end with divorces.

Shortly, inventions are meant to be beneficial for human beings, if we know how to benefit from them. TV is one of such inventions that need to be used for the right purpose only – being educated and entertained for a reasonable (according to age) period of time. We may, then, be safe from or at least reduce the adverse physiological and psychological effects of watching too much TV.

Comparison and Contrast Essays

A comparison and contrast essay focuses on how two items or texts are similar, different, or similar in some ways and different in others. You can compare and contrast any number of items including theories, events, books, or people

To compare is to examine how things are similar, while to contrast is to see how they differ. A compare and contrast essay therefore looks at the similarities of two or more objects, and the differences.

This essay type is common at university, where lecturers frequently test your understanding by asking you to compare and contrast two theories, two methods, two historical periods, two characters in a novel, etc.

Sometimes the whole essay will compare and contrast, though sometimes the comparison or contrast may be only part of the essay. It is also possible, especially for short exam essays, that only the similarities or the differences, not both, will be discussed.

Examples :

- Compare and contrast Newton's ideas of gravity with those proposed by Einstein ['compare and contrast' essay]
- Examine how the economies of Spain and China are similar ['compare' only essay]
- Explain the differences between Achaemenid Empire and Parthian Empire ['contrast' only essay]

Structure of the Comparison and Contrast Essays

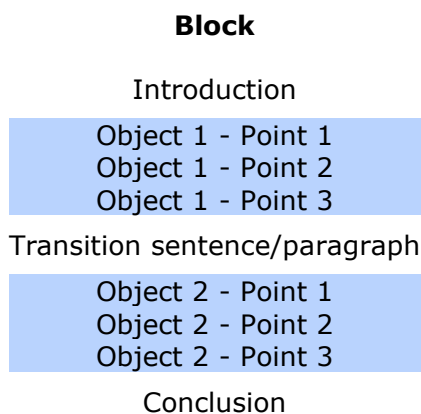
There are two main ways to structure a compare and contrast essay, namely using a block or a point-by-point structure.

- For the block structure, all of the information about one of the objects being compared/contrasted is given first, and all of the information about the other object is listed afterwards. This type of structure is similar to the block structure used for **cause and effect** and **problem-solution** essays.

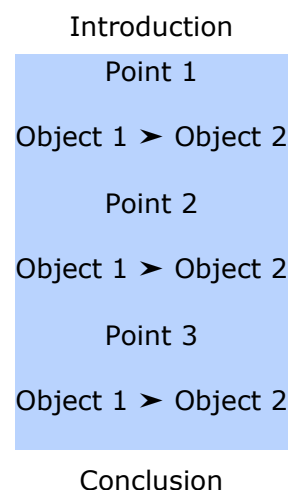
-For the point-by-point structure, each similarity (or difference) for one object is followed immediately by the similarity (or difference) for the other.

Both types of structure have their merits. The former is easier to write, while the latter is generally clearer as it ensures that the similarities/differences are more explicit.

The two types of structure, block and point-by-point, are shown in the diagram below.



Point-by-point



Compare and Contrast transition signals

Comparison transition

- *Similarly, /Likewise/Also /both... and.../ not only... but also/...,neither... nor... /,just like (+ noun), /similar to (+ noun), /to be similar (to), /to be the same as,/ to be alike,/ to compare (to/with)*

Examples

- *Computers can be used to communicate easily, for example via email. Similarly/Likewise, the mobile phone is a convenient tool for communication.*
- *Both computers and mobile phones can be used to communicate easily with other people.*
- *Just like the computer, the mobile phone can be used to communicate easily with other people.*
- *The computer is similar to the mobile phone in the way it can be used for easy communication.*

Contrast transition

- *However/ In contrast/In comparison/By comparison/On the other hand/while /whereas/ but/to differ from/to be different (from) /to be dissimilar to/to be unlike*

Examples

- *Computers, although increasingly small, are not always easy to carry from one place to another. However, the mobile phone can be carried with ease.*
- *Computers are generally not very portable, whereas the mobile phone is.*
- *Computers differ from mobile phones in their lack of portability.*

Criteria for comparison/contrast

When making comparisons or contrasts, it is important to be clear what criteria you are using. Study the following example, which contrasts two people. Here the criteria are unclear.

- *Aaron is tall and strong. In contrast, Bruce is handsome and very intelligent.*

*Although this sentence has a **contrast transition**, the criteria for contrasting are not the same. The criteria used for Aaron are height (tall) and strength (strong). We would expect similar criteria to be used for Bruce (maybe he is short and weak), but instead we have new criteria, namely appearance (handsome) and intelligence (intelligent).*

This is a common mistake for students when writing this type of paragraph or essay. Compare the following, which has much clearer criteria (contrast structure words shown in bold).

- *Aaron and Bruce differ in four ways. The first difference is height. Aaron is tall, while Bruce is short. A second difference is strength. Aaron is strong. **In contrast**, Bruce is weak. A third difference is appearance. Aaron, who is average looking, differs from Bruce, who is handsome. The final difference is intelligence. Aaron is of average intelligence. Bruce, on the other hand, is very intelligent.*

Example essay

« There have been many advances in technology over the past fifty years. These have revolutionized the way we communicate with people who are far away. Compare and contrast methods of communication used today with those which were used in the past.»

Before the advent of computers and modern technology, people communicating over long distances used traditional means such as letters and the telephone. Nowadays we have a vast array of communication tools which can complete this task, ranging from email to instant messaging and video calls. While the present and previous means of communication are similar in their general form, they differ in regard to their speed and the range of tools available.

One similarity between current and previous methods of communication relates to the form of communication. In the past, both written forms such as letters were frequently used, in addition to oral forms such as telephone calls. Similarly, people nowadays use both of these forms. Just as in the past, written forms of communication are prevalent, for example via email and text messaging. In addition, oral forms are still used, including the telephone, mobile phone, and voice messages via instant messaging services.

However, there are clearly many differences in the way we communicate over long distances, the most notable of which is speed. This is most evident in relation to written forms of communication. In the past, letters would take days to arrive at their destination. In contrast, an email arrives almost instantaneously and can be read seconds after it was sent. In the past, if it was necessary to send a short message, for example at work, a memo could be passed around the office, which would take some time to circulate. This is different from the current situation, in which a text message can be sent immediately.

Another significant difference is the range of communication methods. Fifty years ago, the tools available for communicating over long distances were primarily the telephone and the letter. By comparison, there are a vast array of communication methods available today. These include not only the telephone, letter, email and text messages already mentioned, but also video conferences via software such as Skype or mobile phone apps such as Wechat, and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

In conclusion, methods of communication have greatly advanced over the past fifty years. While there are some similarities, such as the forms of communication, there are significant differences, chiefly in relation to the speed of communication and the range of communication tools available. There is no doubt that technology will continue to progress in future, and the advanced tools which we use today may one day also become outdated.

What is an Argumentative Essay?

An argumentative essay is a type of essay that presents arguments about both sides of an issue. It could be that both sides are presented equally, or it could be that one side is presented more forcefully than the other. It all depends on the writer, and what side he supports the most.

An argumentative essay is a piece of writing that attempts to convince the readers that the author's idea is true. This is a genre of writing that is used to defend or prove a point. A writer should do a thorough research; gather accurate facts, statistics, stories, examples, observances, and figures before writing.

An argumentative essay is more like a debate written on paper. , the author must create a logically defensible explanation as to why his point of view is the "right one." While writing an argumentative essay, a writer should be aware of both pros and cons of the argument, and should try to discredit the opposing view by using evidence. Many writers forget this step, and this definitely harms their rate of success. A supported argument without a considered counter argument has reached half of its potential. Make sure to explain why your case carries more weight than the other!

The general structure of an argumentative essay follows this format:

1-Introduction: Attention Grabber / hook, Background Information, Thesis Statement

2-Body: Three body paragraphs (three major arguments)

3-Counterargument: An argument to refute earlier arguments and give weight to the actual position

4-Conclusion: Rephrasing the thesis statement, major points, call to attention, or concluding remarks

What are its most important qualities?

- *The argument should be focused.*
- *The argument should be a clear statement (a question cannot be an argument)*
- *It should be a topic that you can support with solid evidence*
- *The argumentative essay should be based on pros and cons .*
- *Use good transition words/phrases*
- *Research your topic so your evidence is convincing.*
- *Don't overdo your language and don't bore the reader. And don't keep repeating your points!*

*End with a strong conclusion.**The function of an argumentative essay:*

An argumentative essay presents both sides of an issue. However, it presents one side more positively or meticulously than the other one, so that readers could be swayed to the one the author intends. The major function of this type of essays is to present a case before the readers in a convincing manner. And to prove that the author's opinions about a particular subject are correct or more truthful than other opinions on the subject.

Models for Argumentative Essays:

There are two major models besides this structure given above, which is called a classical model. The two models are:

1-Toulmin model: is comprised of an introduction with a claim or thesis, followed by presentation of data to support the claim. Warrants are then listed for the reasons to support the claim with backing and rebuttals.

2- the Rogerian model :asks to evaluate two options, lists strengths and weaknesses of both options, and gives a recommendation after an analysis.

Parts of Argumentative Essay

Introduction

1-How To Start An Argumentative Essay (Hook Statement): As with most other types of essays, one should attempt to captivate the reader's interest from the very beginning. To do this, create a sentence that stands out from the rest of the text. Consider something such as a rhetorical question, funny quote or intriguing idea. The goal is to get your audience reaching for that bag of popcorn right after reading the hook!

-Background Information: After gathering the audience's attention, the next step is to present any necessary context to narrow the focus. This information should not reveal any of the main arguments from your body. Also, it should ideally transition the train of thought towards the thesis statement.

-Thesis Statement: The last sentence of the introduction should present the focal point/central argument of your entire essay. It is essential to writing a thesis correctly, and this is accomplished through proper phrasing. Remember: your primary objective is to defend your idea, so the thesis must **DIRECTLY** state what your idea is and why it is correct.

Body Paragraphs

1-Topic Sentence: Start with a sentence that transitions the focus from the previous paragraph to the current one; it should also introduce the main sub-argument for that particular section.

2-Claim: after presenting your topic sentence, it is time to link your main sub-argument with the thesis statement. The goal is to explain how this point validates and strengthens your central message.

3-Evidence: after providing a valid claim, you must defend it with factual support. Examples of this can be statistics, references or logical ideas that support ones claim since they are getting information from external sources, adding to the essays overall validity.

4-Concluding Statement: after presenting a defensible claim and supporting it with evidence, one must end the body paragraph with a concluding statement. The primary goal of this sentence is to summarize the overall significance of the claim to the thesis. In other words, why was this particular point so essential?

Note that this structure works for each body paragraph. The main difference comes with the actual claim, supporting evidence, etc.

Conclusion

1-Restate The Thesis: The first sentence of any conclusion should always be a restatement of your central message (thesis statement). Using assertive language, restate your thesis in an "I have 100% proven this point" type of way. When information is presented to an audience with confidence, they are subconsciously more inclined to believe that it is in fact, true.

2-Brief Summarization of Sub Arguments: Most likely, the audience has already forgotten some of the information you presented. For this reason, go back through and review your main points, giving your argument closure.

3-Overall Concluding Statement: To end an argumentative essay with a bang, present a memorable concluding statement. Usually, this sentence will express the universal importance of the information and should leave the reader with a call to action for further investigation.

What is a Persuasive Essay?

A persuasive essay is a piece of writing that attempts to convince the readers to agree with author's ideas. In this type of essay, the writer can use his own ideas, opinions and evoke the emotions in the reader in order to convince them to agree to his opinion. A writer of a persuasive essay needs to do research, gather evidence, but a clever writer can create a successful essay without knowing much. This is because; a persuasive writing appeals more to reader's emotions rather than minds. In persuasive writing, the writer should have certain awareness about the audience. For example, opinions and ideas that could appeal to teenagers may not have the same effect on adults. First person narration and Second person narration (Ex: In my opinion, I believe, etc.,) are commonly used as the writer is addressing the audience directly.

Difference between Argumentative and Persuasive Essay

As discussed before, argumentative essays are a genre of writing that attempts to convince the readers to accept the writer's idea as true, by using statistics, facts and figures, etc. while persuasive essays are a genre of writing that attempts to convince the readers to agree with the writer, by using emotions, personal ideas, etc. In other words, an argumentative essay is based on logic and reasons while a persuasive essay is based on emotions and personal opinions. When it comes preparations, before writing an argumentative essay, the writer needs to do a thorough research on the subject but does not need to have the knowledge about the audience. On the other hand, the writer can write a persuasive essay even without doing much research, but he should have certain knowledge about the audience. They also differ in:

1)The purpose:

In a persuasive essay, the author goal is to get the reader to agree with his\her perspective.

In an argumentative essay, the author goal is to accept his\her perspective as truth.

2)The method

In a persuasive essay, opinion is combined with facts, that attempt to make the reader believe that the writer is right.

In an argumentative essay, relevant reasons and data are blended to demonstrate the writer's argument as valid.

3)The support

In a persuasive essay, the claim is based almost solely on opinions and feelings. The writer plays with readers' emotion to get what he\she wants.

In an argumentative essay, the claim relies on reasons that are all substantiated by relevant facts, data, and research.

Parts of the Persuasive Essay

The Introduction: The introduction has a "hook or grabber" to catch the reader's attention. Some "Grabbers" include:

1. Opening with an unusual detail: (Manitoba, because of its cold climate, is not thought of as a great place to be a reptile. Actually, it has the largest seasonal congregation of garter snakes in the world!)
2. Opening with a strong statement: (Cigarettes are the number one cause of lighter sales in Canada!)
3. Opening with a Quotation: (Elbert Hubbard once said , "Truth is stronger than fiction.")
4. Opening with an Anecdote: An anecdote can provide an amusing and attention-getting opening if it is short and to the point.

5. *Opening with a Statistic or Fact: Sometimes a statistic or fact will add emphasis or interest to your topic. It may be wise to include the item's authoritative source.*

6. *Opening with a Question. (Have you ever considered how many books we'd read if it were not for television?)*

7. *Opening with an Exaggeration or Outrageous Statement. (The whole world watched as the comet flew overhead.)*

*The introduction should also include a **thesis or focus statement**. The Thesis/Hypothesis: is your statement of purpose. It should be one sentence in length. This is the foundation of your essay and it will serve to guide you in writing the entire paper.*

There are three objectives of a thesis statement:

1. It tells the reader the specific topic of your essay.

2. It imposes manageable limits on that topic.

3. It suggests the organization of your paper.

Through the thesis, you should say to the reader: "I've thought about this topic, I know what I believe about it, and I know how to organize it."

The Body : *The writer then provides evidence to support the opinion offered in the thesis statement in the introduction. The body should consist of at least three paragraphs. Each paragraph is based on a solid reason to back your thesis statement. Since almost all issues have sound arguments on both sides of the question, a good persuasive writer tries to anticipate opposing viewpoints and provide counter-arguments along with the main points in the essay.*

One of the three paragraphs should be used to discuss opposing viewpoints and your counter-argument.

The following are different ways to support your argument:

-Facts - A powerful means of convincing, facts can come from your reading, observation, or personal experience.

-Note: Do not confuse facts with truths. A "truth" is an idea believed by many people, but it cannot be proven.

-Statistics - These can provide excellent support. Be sure your statistics come from responsible sources. Always cite your sources.

-Quotes - Direct quotes from leading experts that support your position are invaluable. Examples enhance your meaning and make your ideas concrete. They are the proof.

-Hints for successful body paragraphs:

1. Clarify your position in your topic sentence – state your argument or reason that supports your position (thesis), think about what needs to be explained, and then think about how you can elaborate.

*2. Include Concession Statements (address opposing viewpoints!) : **concession**: If you're writing a persuasive piece, you might consider beginning with a concession--that is, by beginning with an*

acknowledgement of part of your opponent's argument as being valid. Remember that a concession is not a form of weakness. In fact a concession is a strength as it finds common ground with your opponent and

establishes your ethical appeal: you are a reasonable person willing to listen to/acknowledge that there are more sides to an issue than yours.

3. Use transitions between sentences to serve as cues for the reader (first, second, then, however, consequently, therefore, thus, still, nevertheless, notwithstanding, furthermore, in fact, in contrast, similarly, instead)

The Conclusion: *A piece of persuasive writing usually ends by summarizing the most important details of the argument and stating once again what the reader is to believe or do.*

- 1. Restate your thesis or focus statement.*
- 2. Summarize the main points: The conclusion enables your reader to recall the main points of your position.*

In order to do this you can paraphrase the main points of your argument.

- 3. Write a personal comment or call for action. You can do this:*

-With a Prediction: This can be used with a narrative or a cause and effect discussion. The conclusion may suggest or predict what the results may or may not be in the situation discussed or in similar situations.

-With a Question: Closing with a question lets your readers make their own predictions, draw their own conclusions.

-With Recommendations: A recommendations closing is one that stresses the actions or remedies that should be taken.

-With a Quotation: Since a quotation may summarize, predict, question, or call for action, you may use a quotation within a conclusion for nearly any kind of paper.

As a general guideline, when writing a persuasive essay:

- 1. Have a firm opinion that you want your reader to accept.*
 - 2. Begin with a grabber or hook to get the reader's attention.*
 - 3. Offer evidence to support your opinion.*
 - 4. Conclude with a restatement of what you want the reader to do or believe.*
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ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

VERSUS

PERSUASIVE ESSAY

COMPARING THE 2 TYPES OF ESSAYS

Attempts to convince the readers to accept the writer's idea as true by using statistics, facts and figures, etc.	Attempts to convince the readers to agree with the writer, by using emotions, personal ideas, etc.
Based on logic and reason	Based on emotions, personal opinions.
Acknowledges opposing views.	May not acknowledge opposing views.
Appeals to the minds of the readers.	Appeals to the hearts of the readers.
Writer needs to do a thorough research before starting.	Writer can write without doing much research..
Writer does not need to have knowledge about the audience.	Writer should have certain knowledge about the audience.

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When we look at both types of essays in the perspective of the audience; an argumentative essay appeals to the minds of the readers whereas, a persuasive essay appeals to the hearts of the readers. Also, an argumentative essay acknowledges opposing views, but a persuasive essay may not acknowledge opposing view

