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***Module:*** Written Expression

***Lecture***: Types of the Essay

**SEMESTER 02**

1. **Introduction**

To begin with, it is worth nothing to determine that there are several types of essays such as descriptive, narrative, argumentative, comparison and contrast, cause and effect. To simplify, each type is written through specific techniques to achieve different purposes and carried through various styles. For example, the descriptive is using more adjectives, based on details, and could be found in novels, personal memories, and literary texts, while cause and effect is found in notices of new machines…etc. So, the readers, domains, and characteristics of each type are not the same.

1. **Types of Essays:**

**Unit Goals**

Descriptive Essay Organization

Exploring Description Language

Outlining and Writing a Descriptive Essay

* 1. **The Descriptive: (show don’t tell!)**

The Descriptive essay focuses on describing a person, object, event, place, moment, memory…etc. In this type, the use of described details evokes the readers’ all senses of smelling, sight, tasting, listening so as to establish an imaginary image in one’s mind about what he/she is reading as if he lives in the scene he is reading. The descriptive essay is the best type that ameliorates one’s sense of imagination, skills of turning short moments into long well described scenes. This could be highly reached through involving figures of language such as similes and metaphors. So, this type could be the most appropriate for creative writings simply because it enables the writer is free to transcribe the scene in different ways and situations.

**2.1.1 Sample**

**The Best Pizza in Town and Maybe in the World**

I have suffered a great deal because of a terrible addiction to pizza. Basically, I enjoy pizza too much. In fact, I enjoy it so much. I won’t share it, not even with my mother. People in my hometown of Cabimas, Venezuela, laugh at me and call me the pizza King of Cabimas, but it is a name that I am proud of. I have eaten pizza in many places, and none is as good as the pizza of Cabimas. The best place to eat pizza in Cabimas is at Papa’s. Customers have to wait in line to get a table but the wait is worth it. Once they are seated, pizza-lovers can choose from many varieties of pizza, such as pizza with shrimp and smoked oysters or pizza with pine nuts and garlic, but my favorite is the sausage and pepperoni. First of all, it is big. When the waiter puts it down in front of me, I feel happy because I will get enough to eat. It smells of garlic, oil, and spices. And it looks delicious too. The sauce oozes out from under a layer of rich melted cheese. The best part is the first bite. I sink my teeth into a slightly crunchy crust, thick tomato sauce and gooey cheese, and I am in heaven. I can eat two of these pizzas in one night. Now that I am in the United States, I am trying different kinds of pizzas here. I have never seen so many different pizza restaurants! I want to try them one by one. So far, some of them are delicious, but I am convinced that the best pizza in the world is still at Papa’s restaurant a couple of blocks from the house where I grew up.

**2.1.2 Organization and Characteristics**

***A. Introduction***

-Generally paves the way for the purpose, and why it is interesting to make the description

-Finishes by a more specific statement related to the purpose (thesis statement)

***B. Body/Middle***

-**Visualization**: Create a mental picture in the reader’s mind by the involvement of sensory adjectives, details, vivid examples or reasons.

**Use of figurative language**: simile, metaphor and so forth to make the meaning more impressive.

-**Transitions** connect the ideas in a logical way and assist the flow from paragraph to paragraph: paragraphs general<ly are given time order

***C. Conclusion/End***

-May include a restatement of the writer’s opinion or the main idea (thesis statement)

-May summarize the information given in the body

**2.1.2.1 Concerning Language**

-Do not use vague words or generalities such as good, nice, but specific, sensory, descriptive words and adjectives.

Examples: I devoured fried potatoes instead of I ate a good dinner.

Smells: the aroma of freshly brewed coffee (smell).

Sounds: honking horns

Sights: The sun scattered tiny diamonds across dew-covered grass

Touch: The texture of the hut resembled coarse sandpaper.

Taste: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, tart: goose bumps formed on my tongue when I accidently bit into a sliver of lemon.”

**2.1.3 The Outline of the Descriptive Essay**

1. ***Introduction***
   1. Hook: Set the tone and grab the attention of the reader
   2. Introduce thoughts: Be brief and leave the reader wanting more
   3. Thesis statement: Summarize the ideas coming
2. ***Body***
3. Paragraph 1
   1. Topic sentence
   2. Explanation of first idea and sources
   3. Analysis of idea and sources
4. Paragraph 2
   1. Topic sentence
   2. Explanation of second idea and sources
   3. Analysis of idea and sources
5. Paragraph 3
   1. Topic sentence
   2. Explanation of third idea and sources
   3. Analysis of ideas and sources
6. ***Conclusion***
   1. Repeat the concept of thesis statement
   2. Rehash ideas from the body paragraph
   3. Closing statement

**2.1.4 Main Steps to write an essay**

* Brainstorming
* outlining
* word sorting
* sentence writing with explanations
* transitions and ending up
* the final revision

**2.1.5 Activity One:**

Imagine yourself a journalist in Qatar with the Algerian football team and you were asked to write essays about each match describing every single detail about players, stadiums, press, hotels, services, Qatar city in order to support people from over the world to come to see the world cup in this country.

**2.2 The Narrative (tell the story)**

A narrative essay is the one that tells a story, but different in that it is weaved around a motif. A motif is given before the incidents of the essay. Readers become aware of this single theme, central idea, or motif once they go through the essay. Its major aim is to provide information about life experiences and lessons learned from those experiences narrated by the writer or the protagonist

**2.2.1 Elements of a Narrative Essay**

**2.2.1.1** [**Character**](https://literarydevices.net/character/)

Characters are an important part of a narrative essay. Even if the essay is autobiographical in nature, the person writing the essay is a character involving some other characters who act, behave, and do like all other characters presented in stories and [novels](https://literarydevices.net/novel/).

**2.2.1.2**[**Theme**](https://literarydevices.net/theme/)**or Motif**

A narrative essay revolves around a theme or a motif. This theme or motif is presented in its [thesis](https://literarydevices.net/thesis/) statement, which breaks it down into three distinct [evidences](https://literarydevices.net/evidence/). These three distinct evidences are then further elaborated through characters in [body paragraphs](https://literarydevices.net/body-paragraph/).

**2.2.1.3** [**Dialogue**](https://literarydevices.net/dialogue/)

Dialogue is used to capture the conversation between characters. In a narrative essay, dialogue is the third important element, without which the characters lose their worth and liveliness.

## 2.2.2 Characteristics:

## 2.2.2.1 Perspective

 A narrative essay most often tells a story from the writer's perspective. The essay defines a specific point of view. This means the narrative essay tells the story how you see it. There are **three sides to every story**: yours, mine, and the truth? In a narrative essay you are sharing your side of the story. Because you are telling the story as you see it, sometimes it can be persuasive like that time you promised the police officer you didn't slow down for the school zone because you simply couldn't see the flashing sign since it was covered by Mrs. Jones' oleanders. It's your side of the story, and you are trying to convince the police officer to see it from your perspective, thus being persuasive is potentially hard.

## 2.2.2.2 Storytelling

The storytelling means the essay reader is engaged unstoppably in reading a story usually attractive and caught by its suspense. Also it needs to build **a plot** that is developed and carried out through the narrative. Basically, a plot is all of the major events of a story working together to give it a point. Besides, the reader should find a climax that is when all events come together towards the biggest problem in the story. It is the most important piece in the essay and the most intense and exciting.

**2.2.3 The Sample:**

It was my second day on the job. I was sitting in my seemingly gilded cubicle, overlooking Manhattan, and pinching my right arm to make sure it was real. I landed an internship at Condé Nast Traveler. Every aspiring writer I’ve ever known secretly dreamt of an Anthony Bourdain lifestyle. Travel the world and write about its most colorful pockets.

When my phone rang, and it was Mom telling me Dad had a heart attack. He didn’t make it. I felt as though the perfectly carpeted floors had dropped out from under me. Now that I’ve come out the other side, I realize Dad left me with a hefty stack of teachings. Here are three ideals I know he would’ve liked for me to embrace.

First, you have to stand on your own two feet. As much as our parents love and support us, they can’t go to our school and confess to the principal that we stole a candy bar from Sara. We have to do that. Neither can they walk into the Condé Nast office and nail a job interview for us. At some point, we have to put on our “big girl pants” and be brave, even if we’re not.

Also, there’s a difference between love and co-dependence. Being grateful to have someone to turn to for love and support is not the same as needing someone to turn to for love and support. With the loss of my father, I’ve also lost my sounding board. All I can glean from that is it’s time to look within myself and make proper assessments. If I can’t make sound decisions with the tools already in my kit, then I risk falling for anything.

Finally, memories are, perhaps, the only item that cannot be taken away from us. Will I miss my father? Every single day. What can I do in those times? I can open up our suitcase of memories, pick out my favorite one, and dream about it, talk about it, or write about it. Maybe I can’t pick up the phone and call him anymore, but that doesn’t mean he’s gone.

Next week, I’m off to Istanbul to explore their art scene. As soon as I read the email from my editor, I picked up my phone to call Dad. Then, I realized he’ll never answer my calls again. I fought back the tears, got up to make a cup of peppermint tea, and added a new note to my iPhone titled, “Istanbul Packing List.”

In the end, life goes on. I’m not sure why he had to leave during the single most poignant chapter in my life. So, I won’t dwell on that. Instead, I’ll hold tightly to these three ideals and write about Karaköy in Istanbul’s Beyoğlu district. Dad will be with me every step of the way.

**2.2.4 Activity One:**

Choose a vivid time from your childhood -- You might think of the first time that you rode a school bus, of a time when you went to the principal's office, the first good mark you got on a test, earning money to buy something that you really wanted, and so on. Narrate the events related to the childhood memory that you've chosen so that your readers will understand why the event was important and memorable.

**2.3 Argumentative Essay (or the Persuasive) (Convince me!)**

**2.3.1 What is an Argumentative Essay?**

An argumentative [essay](https://literarydevices.net/essay/) is a type of essay that presents arguments about both sides of an issue. It could be that both sides are presented equally balanced, 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. The general structure of an argumentative essay follows this format:  
 **2.3.2 The Outline of the argumentative**

1. ***Debatable*thesis statement** in the Introduction
2. **Argument** – paragraphs which show support for the author’s thesis (for example: reasons, evidence, data, statistics)
3. **Counterargument** – at least one paragraph which explains the opposite point of view
4. **Concession** – a sentence or two acknowledging that there could be some truth to the Counterargument
5. **Refutation** (also called Rebuttal) – sentences which explain why the Counterargument is not as strong as the original Argument

**2.3.2.1 A counterargument**

 A counterargument is a viewpoint that opposes your main argument. Counterarguments are part of good persuasive writing and speaking strategy because they show that you've considered other points of view. They also set up the chance to refute the opposition and show why your position is the right one to have. Placing a counterargument in your persuasive essay increases your **ethos** (credibility) because it shows fairness.

### 2.3.2.1.1 Examples of the Counterargument Structure

* **Argument against smoking on campus:**Admittedly, many students would like to smoke on campus. Some people may rightly argue that if smoking on campus is not illegal, then it should be permitted; however, second-hand smoke may cause harm to those who have health issues like asthma, possibly putting them at risk.

### 2.3.3 The Sample:  Put a Little Science in Your Life (by Brian Greene)

“When we consider the ubiquity of cell phones, iPods, personal computers and the Internet, it’s easy to see how science (and the technology to which it leads) is woven into the fabric of our day-to-day [activities](https://literarydevices.net/community/activities/). When we benefit from CT scanners, M.R.I. devices, pacemakers and arterial stents, we can immediately appreciate how science affects the quality of our lives. When we assess the state of the world, and identify looming challenges like climate change, global pandemics, security threats and diminishing resources, we don’t hesitate in turning to science to gauge the problems and find solutions.

And when we look at the wealth of opportunities hovering on the horizon—stem cells, genomic sequencing, personalized medicine, longevity research, nanoscience, brain-machine interface, quantum computers, space technology—we realize how crucial it is to cultivate a general public that can engage with scientific issues; there’s simply no other way that as a society we will be prepared to make informed decisions on a range of issues that will shape the future.”

**2.3.4 Activity:** The severity of controlling laws of *gun using* in America will make life safer. Write an argumentative essay persuading the government to set restrictive laws over gun users and making good arguments and counterarguments as well.

**2.4 The Cause and Effect Essay (it happened because of a certain reason)**

**2.4.1 The Definition**

## A cause and effect essay focuses on the reasons (or causes) for something, and then discusses the results (or effects). For this reason, cause and effect essays are sometimes referred to as reason and result essays. They are one of the most common forms of organization in academic writing. Sometimes the whole essay will be cause and effect, though sometimes this may be only part of the whole essay. It is also possible, especially for short exam essays, that only the causes or the effects, not both, are discussed. See the examples below.

      In cause/effect essays, the writer tries to explain for their reader either the causal relationship between two ideas, concepts or phenomena, or present the consequences of one thing on another. They may as well do the two; show how one cause or a set of causes leads to one or multiple consequences.

## 2.4.2 What is the Purpose of a Cause-and-Effect Essay?

In a school environment, teachers assign cause-and-effect essays to teach [critical thinking](https://masterclass.com/articles/guide-to-critical-thinking), logic, and persuasive writing. In the world of academic writing or a professional setting, this type of essay can take the form of a lab report abstract, a scientific case study, or a scholarly research paper. In all of these formats, an author describes a phenomenon and tries to identify its main causes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| cause | Effect (result) |
| due to  since  because  for the reason that | Consequently  Hence  Thus  therefore |

**2.4.3 The Structure of cause and Effect Essay:**

    There are two main ways to structure a cause and effect essay. These are similar to the ways to structure [problem-solution essays](https://www.eapfoundation.com/writing/essays/problemsolution/), namely using a *block* or a *chain* structure. For the ***block*** structure, all of the causes are listed first, and all of the effects are listed afterwards. For the ***chain*** structure, each cause is followed immediately by the effect. Usually that effect will then be the cause of the next effect, which is why this structure is called 'chain'. Both types of structure have their merits. The former is generally clearer, especially for shorter essays, while the latter ensures that any effects you present relate directly to the causes you have given.

**2.5 The Sample: Effects of Video Game Addiction**

Video game addition is a serious problem in many parts of the world today and deserves more attention. It is no secret that children and adults in many countries throughout the world, including Japan, China, and the United States, play video games every day. Most players are able to limit their usage in ways that do not interfere with their daily lives, but many others have developed an addiction to playing video games and suffer detrimental effects.

An addiction can be described in several ways, but generally speaking, addictions involve unhealthy attractions to substances or activities that ultimately disrupt the ability of a person to keep up with regular daily responsibilities. Video game addiction typically involves playing games uncontrollably for many hours at a time—some people will play only four hours at a time while others cannot stop for over twenty-four hours. Regardless of the severity of the addiction, many of the same effects will be experienced by all.

One common effect of video game addiction is isolation and withdrawal from social experiences. Video game players often hide in their homes or in Internet cafés for days at a time—only reemerging for the most pressing tasks and necessities. The effect of this isolation can lead to a breakdown of communication skills and often a loss in socialization. While it is true that many games, especially massive multiplayer online games, involve a very real form of e-based communication and coordination with others, and these virtual interactions often result in real communities that can be healthy for the players, these communities and forms of communication rarely translate to the types of valuable social interaction that humans need to maintain typical social functioning. As a result, the social networking in these online games often gives the users the impression that they are interacting socially, while their true social lives and personal relations may suffer.

Another unfortunate product of the isolation that often accompanies video game addiction is the disruption of the user’s career. While many players manage to enjoy video games and still hold their jobs without problems, others experience challenges at their workplace. Some may only experience warnings or demerits as a result of poorer performance, or others may end up losing their jobs altogether. Playing video games for extended periods of time often involves sleep deprivation, and this tends to carry over to the workplace, reducing production and causing habitual tardiness.

Video game addiction may result in a decline in overall health and hygiene. Players who interact with video games for such significant amounts of time can go an entire day without eating and even longer without basic hygiene tasks, such as using the restroom or bathing. The effects of this behavior pose significant danger to their overall health.

The causes of video game addiction are complex and can vary greatly, but the effects have the potential to be severe. Playing video games can and should be a fun activity for all to enjoy. But just like everything else, the amount of time one spends playing video games needs to be balanced with personal and social responsibilities.

* **2.6 Activity:**  Do personal or cultural factors play a bigger role in whether someone becomes addicted to social media in the first place? What are the effects that such an addiction can have on a student’s life?

**2.5 Comparison and Contrast Essay**

**2.5.1 The Definition**

Comparison is a writing discusses elements that are similar, while contrast  discusses elements that are different. A compare-and-contrast essay, then, analyzes two subjects by comparing them, contrasting them, or both. The key to a good compare-and-contrast essay is to choose two or more subjects that connect in a meaningful way. The purpose of conducting the comparison or contrast is not to state the obvious but rather to illuminate subtle differences or unexpected similarities.

**2.5.2 The Structure of a Compare/Contrast Essay**

This essay starts with a thesis that clearly states the two subjects that are to be compared, contrasted, or both and the reason for doing so.

**2.5.2. 1. Thesis Statement: Organic and conventional vegetables have not the same benefits on the human health though they would appear similar for the first sight however if the organic is put to the test they are definitely worth every extra penny.**

**2.5.2.2 The Body:** You may organize compare-and-contrast essays in one of the following two ways:

1. According to the subjects themselves, discussing one then the other (similarity then difference using for example: **while, but, however, in contradiction, conversely**…etc.
2. According to individual points, discussing each subject in relation to each point (one whole paragraph is for similarities and the next is for dissimilarities. You can use: **like, similar, such, both, similarly**…etc.

The organizational structure you choose depends on the nature of the topic, your purpose, and your audience.

**2.5.3** **The Sample**

**Comparing and Contrasting London and Washington, DC By Scott McLean in Writing for Success**

Both Washington, DC, and London are capital cities of English-speaking countries, and yet they offer vastly different experiences to their residents and visitors. Comparing and contrasting the two cities based on their history, their culture, and their residents show how different and similar the two are.

Both cities are rich in world and national history, though they developed on very different time lines. London, for example, has a history that dates back over two thousand years. It was part of the Roman Empire and known by the similar name, Londinium. It was not only one of the northernmost points of the Roman Empire but also the epicenter of the British Empire where it held significant global influence from the early sixteenth century on through the early twentieth century. Washington, DC, on the other hand, has only formally existed since the late eighteenth century. Though Native Americans inhabited the land several thousand years earlier, and settlers inhabited the land as early as the sixteenth century, the city did not become the capital of the United States until the 1790s. From that point onward to today, however, Washington, DC, has increasingly maintained significant global influence. Even though both cities have different histories, they have both held, and continue to hold, significant social influence in the economic and cultural global spheres.

Both Washington, DC, and London offer a wide array of museums that harbor many of the world’s most prized treasures. While Washington, DC, has the National Gallery of Art and several other Smithsonian galleries, London’s art scene and galleries have a definite edge in this category. From the Tate Modern to the British National Gallery, London’s art ranks among the world are best. This difference and advantage has much to do with London and Britain’s historical depth compared to that of the United States. London has a much richer past than Washington, DC, and consequently has a lot more material to pull from when arranging its collections. Both cities have thriving theater districts, but again, London wins this comparison, too, both in quantity and quality of theater choices. With regard to other cultural places like restaurants, pubs, and bars, both cities are very comparable. Both have a wide selection of expensive, elegant restaurants as well as a similar amount of global and national chains. While London may be better known for its pubs and taste in beer, DC offers a different bar-going experience. With clubs and pubs that tend to stay open later than their British counterparts, the DC night life tends to be less reserved overall.

Both cities also share and differ in cultural diversity and cost of living. Both cities share a very expensive cost of living—both in terms of housing and shopping. A downtown one-bedroom apartment in DC can easily cost $1,800 per month, and a similar “flat” in London may double that amount. These high costs create socioeconomic disparity among the residents. Although both cities’ residents are predominantly wealthy, both have a significantly large population of poor and homeless. Perhaps the most significant difference between the resident demographics is the racial makeup. Washington, DC, is a “minority majority” city, which means the majority of its citizens are races other than white. In 2009, according to the US Census, 55 percent of DC residents were classified as “Black or African American” and 35 percent of its residents were classified as “white.” London, by contrast, has very few minorities—in 2006, 70 percent of its population was “white,” while only 10 percent was “black.” The racial demographic differences between the cities are drastic.

Even though Washington, DC, and London are major capital cities of English-speaking countries in the Western world, they have many differences along with their similarities. They have vastly different histories, art cultures, and racial demographics, but they remain similar in their cost of living and socioeconomic disparity.

**2.5.4 Activity**

Algeria is multi natural country in which there are plains, seas coasts, mountains, green land, and deserts; in a comparative essay state the differences and similarities between the Algerian north and south in terms of nature, temperature, food, traditions, cultures…so as to show the richness of this country.

**2.6 Conclusion:**

At the end, there are so many types of texts and the choice is depending on the subject itself and its characteristics and how the reader is going to interpret it. However, the introduction, body, and conclusion are essential elements found in every text despite the paragraphs numbering, plots, structure transitions, examples and explanations that differ from one text into another.