Part 1: Writing an Expository Essay

Part 2: Using Media/Visuals to present an Expository Essay

One type of essay, an [expository](http://www.yourdictionary.com/expository) essay, gives information to the reader that is not clouded by the writer’s opinions. It may compare, discuss, analyze, or tell a story. The main focus is to explain the facts. Expository writing is a staple of academic writing. Throughout your academic and professional career, you will be called on to write hundreds of expository articles, reports and essays.

Basics for a solid Expository Essay

* The wording needs to concise and clear.
* Write the essay in the second person perspective (you).
* Decide on your method of development: define, compare and contrast, analyze, cause and effect, or classify. This will define your writing style and is one of the most important [tips](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/style-and-usage/tips-for-writing-essays.html) on writing an excellent expository essay.
* Write a thesis statement and have topic sentences for each paragraph.
* A successful essay will have the important points emphasized, will be factual and not subjective, and have valid information.
* Conclusions can restate the argument, summarize your facts, or give the next step needed to further the research.
* Keep your writing concise and brief.
* Each paragraph should cover one topic and each sentence should present a new idea.
* Use transitory words and sentences to make your essay flow smoothly.  Connect sentences with words like: however, for example, or such as.  Connect paragraphs by having the topic sentence refer back to the preceding paragraph or the thesis statement.

***When writing your expository essay, follow these eight basic steps:***

* **Select a topic:**  
  Be sure the topic is narrow enough to make it manageable within the space of an essay
* **Write a thesis sentence:**  
  Be sure the thesis statement (or sentence) expresses a controlling idea that is neither too broad nor too specific to be developed effectively
* **Select a method of development:**  
  Check through all the methods before you finally settle on the one   
  which will best serve your thesis:

***definition | example | compare and contrast |   
cause and effect | classification | process analysis***

* **Organize the essay:**  
  Begin by listing the major divisions which the body paragraphs in your essay will discuss; then fill in the primary supports that each body paragraph of the essay will contain
* **Write topic sentences for the body paragraphs of the essay:**  
  For each body paragraph, furnish a topic sentence that directly relates to the thesis sentence
* **Write the body paragraphs of the essay:**  
  Each body paragraph should develop the primary support covered in that paragraph's topic sentence
* **Furnish a paragraph of introduction:**  
  An introductory paragraph should state the thesis of the essay, introduce the divisions in the body paragraphs of the essay, and gain the interest of the reader
* **Write a paragraph of conclusion:**
  + Restate the thesis and divisions of the essay
  + Bring the essay to an appropriate and effective close
  + Provide a comparison so audience can connect
  + Avoid digressing into new issues

**Sample Writing Prompts:**

*As we move further on the academic ladder, writing prompts require detailed research and a college-level grasp of subject matter.*

1. Explore how obesity affects a nation’s productivity and economy.

2. What were the direct and indirect causes of the Syrian refugee crisis?

3. What are the long-term effects of global warming, especially its estimated impact on coastal cities.

4. What would be a great schedule that would allow you to be a very productive and successful student in high school?

5. Describe the evolution of communication in the last 20 years since the advent of the Internet.

6. What is a serious public health concern that you believe does not get enough attention? Describe this problem in detail. Back up your arguments with appropriate research.

7. Why is diversity in a workplace important?

8. Why should we be so concerned with recycling, and energy conservation?

9. Why a slap shot is important to learn and how can one learn to do one.

10. Describe the process of making your mom’s incredible lemon pie.

This assignment must be done purely as an essay style as well by using multi-media tools to enhance communication: Power point, I-movie, digital pictures, etc. A script will need to be researched and written prior to any video or graphics added so if and when presenting to group, there is a rehearsed process.

**Grading:**

*Part I Essay* /25 (Intro -3, **Thesis** -2 / Organized/Sequential

Body -10 / Compare and Contrast -2, Conclusion -3)

*Part II Media/Presentation* /25 Visuals, clarity, organization, timing, sound,

etc. Try to captivate audience early.

Always try to market your topic: why should the listener want to hear you? SELL IT!