

Anatomy of an Essay (AE)

AE defines essay terms and how they should be used. While it outlines a basic essay, these are guidelines to help you draft your essay. Introductions may vary from three sentences or more; body paragraphs should have at least four or more sentences, and the conclusion, three or more sentences. There is no formula to writing an essay, but since it is a specific genre of writing it does include specific elements defined below. The entire essay itself should be at least four or more paragraphs.

Introduction (HIT)	Explanation	Avoid. . .
Hook	Provocative and relevant quotation, question, or statement that grabs the reader's attention.	Repeating the prompt or stating the obvious.
Information	Background information about the topic; sometimes this requires a bit of research.	Veering off topic.
Thesis	An argumentative statement that isn't self-evident.	Writing a question, an announcement, or a fact
Body Paragraphs (TECT)	Explanation	Avoid. . .
Topic Sentence	An argumentative or informative statement that relates to the thesis.	Writing an unanswered question, an announcement, or a fact
Evidence	Proves your point with evidence such as an example, quote, story, or statistic.	Veering off topic or using unclear examples.
Commentary	Further explains your ideas and makes the connection to the topic sentence.	Skipping this step—the reader cannot intuit meaning!
Transition (see the transition list)	The sentence that sums up the paragraph AND alludes or hints to what's next.	Restating the topic sentence "creatively".
Conclusion (HS)	Explanation	Avoid. . .
Hook	Alludes or hints to the topic/thesis	Repeating the prompt (or the first paragraph).
Summation	Add a short, relevant story (relevant anecdote) ; make a prediction ; make a comparison to a similar topic; make a suggestion (call to action) ; include a relevant quotation .	Restating what you've written (summarizing).

Created by J. Grimes, 2008, updated 2010