

A Basic Essay Format

Basic Essay Structure



Vocabulary

Overlap: If two or more activities, subjects, or periods of time overlap, they have some parts that are the same.

Graceful: having or showing grace or elegance.

Rambling: (of writing or speech) lengthy and confused or inconsequential.

Agonize: undergo great mental anguish through worrying about something.

Cut and dried: already decided and unlikely to be changed.

Persuade: induce (someone) to do something through reasoning or argument.

Anecdotes: a short and amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person.

Introduction

An essay is a piece of writing that gives the author's own argument. However, the definition is vague, **overlapping** with those of a paper, an article, a pamphlet, and a short story. Essays have traditionally been sub-classified as formal and informal. Formal essays are characterized by "serious purpose, dignity, logical organization, length," whereas the informal essay is characterized by "the personal element (self-revelation, individual tastes and experiences, confidential manner), humor, **graceful** style, **rambling** structure, unconventionality or novelty of theme," etc. An essay can have many purposes, but the basic structure is the same no matter what.

You may be writing an essay to argue for a particular point of view or to explain the steps necessary to complete a task. Either way, your essay will have the same basic format. If you follow a few simple steps, you will find that the essay almost writes itself.