

English 1201/2201/3201
The Literary Essay

An essay may be written in formal or informal style:

- **Formal style** is clearly structured and avoids bias.
- **Informal style** may be conversational and can include *colloquialisms* or *slang*.

Purpose:

- To explain how something functions
- To describe
- To tell a story
- To state an opinion
- To persuade
- To criticize
- To satirize
- To entertain
- To inspire
- To commemorate
- To advise
- To advertise
- etc.

Types/Categories:

Descriptive - To describe; typically uses a great deal of imagery and adjectives and adverbs

Narrative - To tell a story; usually written in the first person and has a single topic

Argumentative - Expresses and justifies a particular opinion on a specific topic or issue

Persuasive - Uses the same structure as an argumentative essay, but includes a “call to action” to persuade the reader to take action. Can be formal or informal style

Expository - Uses facts to explain how ideas or concepts function. Expository essays are typically in formal style and do not openly reveal the opinions of the author.

Methods of Development: To prove a single thesis, one or more methods of development may be used. (* For more details on methods of development, visit the course website for the PowerPoint notes)

Comparison & Contrast - Examples -	Outlines and explains similarities and differences Various examples are illustrated/explained.
Chronological description - Definition -	<i>'first this happens, then this, then that...'</i> (process) A building process toward a particular term or concept's full and complete meaning.
Cause & Effect -	<i>'Because of these conditions, these were the effects.'</i>
Categories/Classification -	Types, subcategories are divided or grouped through a description or analysis of their similarities. <i>'Described here are all the types of blood disorders:...'</i>

Tone: The author's attitude toward his/her subject.

*before determining tone, be sure to specifically state the essayist's subject.

*tone is usually determined through DICTION (word choice)

*Identify and state specific words and phrases which reflect how the diction reveals tone.

For a list of tones, visit the notes page of the document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JAV6CGRWvZDrdJmShJRNIDfKfzVN3IBIBPIOdOKM0VI/>

Audience:

NEVER SAY THAT THE INTENDED AUDIENCE IS EVERYONE!

When determining audience, consider factors such as the subjectmatter/topic as well as

GLARES:

-Gender

-Location

-Age

-Religious values

-Education level

-Socio-economic status

Coherence: Ideas are presented in a logical and unified manner.

While our thoughts may not necessarily be coherent, our written language must be. Otherwise, we “SQUIRREL!”

The four methods of coherence are:

P- Pronoun reference (ex. Susan went to the store. She bought a bag of potato chips. They were delicious!)

P - Parallel structure; when the content changes, but the structure is repeated.

(ex. an expository essay typically has 3 body paragraphs, with each one conforming to a particular set structure: Body paragraph 1: Topic sentence, General statement, Specific evidence, Tie-back statement; Body paragraph 2: Topic sentence, General statement, Specific evidence, Tie-back statement; Body paragraph 3: Topic sentence, General statement, Specific evidence, Tie-back statement.)

R - Repetition; of key words and phrases

(ex. in order to maintain a link with the thesis, an essayist may repeat the key word several times throughout the essay. Another technique often seen is a concluding paragraph as a ‘closing by return’ which essentially repeats the nuts and bolts of what was presented in the introductory paragraph.)

T - Transitional words and phrases (connect from one idea to the next)

Check out this helpful and concise list:

<https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Transitions.html>

Types of transitions: Additional support
Temporal/Chronological
Contrast/Oppositional
Spatial/Place/Position
Conclusion/Summary