

# Different Types of Essays in Composition

## Analysis

Imagine receiving a vague text from a crush, overthinking it, wondering “*What does it mean?!*”, interpreting it based on outside evidence and then writing an essay about it. The word “analyze” means to look deeply into a subject, ask questions about it, and reveal some deeper meaning other than what is on the surface.

Some key features of an analysis essay include:

- **Introduction** a creative hook and then an explanation of the topic, such as a brief summary of a story or some quick background information on a social issue.
- **Thesis** a sentence at the end of the intro making an argument and the reasons why the argument is correct (example: Because of the similarities in characters and plot, it can be argued that Disney’s *The Lion King* is a modern retelling of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*).
- **Body Paragraphs** Support the thesis by breaking down each topic mentioned in your intro/thesis in its own body paragraph. Use information from your source(s) in your body paragraphs as evidence to support your thesis. **Remember to cite!**
- **Conclusion** wrap up your essay by briefly recapping what each topic was, what the overall argument of the essay is, and why it should matter to readers.
- **Academic Language** write formally, using the 3<sup>rd</sup> person point of view.
- For more information on writing an analytical essay, click or copy the link:  
<http://www.newton.k12.in.us/hs/english/vanduyn/eng11-12ap/A%20Guide%20to%20Writing%20the%20Literary%20Analysis%20Essay.pdf>

## Narrative

In a book, movie or TV show, the narrator is the person telling the story. With this in mind, a narrative essay is a story. Parts of a well-told story include characters, a conflict that needs to be overcome, rising tension, climax, conflict resolution, and possibly some kind of moral or lesson for the reader to take away.

Some other key features of a narrative essay include:

- **Vivid detail** try to engage all five senses of your reader.
- **Emotion** make the audience feel something.
- **Some idea of why this narrative matters** how can you make your audience relate to or take meaning from your story?
- For more information on writing a narrative essay, click or copy the link:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/academic\\_writing/essay\\_writing/narrative\\_essays.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/narrative_essays.html)

Over →

## Persuasive

A persuasive essay shares many similarities with an analysis essay. The main difference is that the goal of a persuasive essay is to argue a point in such a way that the reader is convinced that the writer's argument is the most valid point of view. Persuasive essays very often involve hot button issues in politics, health, religion or society among many others. Just about any topic can be turned into a persuasive essay as long as the writer has an opinion about it and argues that opinion.

Some key features of a persuasive essay include:

- **Organization** a persuasive essay is organized in the same way as an analysis, with an intro, thesis, body paragraphs with **cited evidence** from outside sources, and a conclusion.
- **Rhetorical Strategies** most effective arguments include a mixture of emotion (pathos), logic (logos) and credible information from the author and other experts (ethos).
- **Concessions and counterarguments** a persuasive essay is not just an angry rant. Most effective persuasive essays will acknowledge that the opposing side of their argument has a good point, and then persist with why the author's point of view is superior.
- **Academic language** write formally using the 3<sup>rd</sup> person point of view.

For more information about writing a persuasive essay, click or copy the link:

<https://www.nova.edu/tutoring-testing/study-resources/forms/planning-a-persuasive-essay.pdf>

## Reflection

Reflection essays are easy for some and difficult for others. They are often personal and often look at negative as well as positive aspects of a topic. The point of a reflection paper is to look back on an event or experience (a college course for example) and analyze it, thinking about what went well, what went poorly, and how the event or experience will matter to the future of the writer.

Some key features of a reflection essay include:

- **Focus on learning process** describe each aspect of your experience and then describe what you learned or came to understand by going through it.
- **Use of examples** Avoid just narrating what happened. Use specific examples from your experience to prove that you mastered a concept or learned from a mistake.
- **First person** many reflections are personal, so the use of the first-person point of view (I, me, my etc.) is acceptable.

For more information about writing a reflection essay, click or copy the link:

<http://writingspaces.org/sites/default/files/giles--reflective-writing-and-the-revision-process.pdf>