ESSAY FRAMEWORK

English/Writing Lab
Workshop
Summer Term
2012
OVERVIEW

- Kinds of Essays
- Researching
- Topic/Thesis Statement
- Outlines
- The Writing Process
- Proofreading/Revising
So, you have a paper to write? What is your paper going to be about? Is it going to argue your point of view? Or are you going to describe something you love to do? What is your paper’s purpose? Whatever the case may be, you need to know what kind of paper you are going to be writing in order to better prepare yourself for doing so. Below are some of the basic types of essays you may need to write. Remember that each essay requires different information, but the framework remains similar.

- Descriptive
- Narrative
- Definition
- Cause/Effect
- Compare and Contrast
- Argumentative
- Expository/Process
- Critical/Analysis
Researching

- Researching is as vital to essay writing as books are vital to the library.
- You need to research to narrow down the topic of your essay.
From your research you should form a strongly stated topic/thesis.

Your topic or thesis statement is what your entire essay is going to be about.

You should be able to write your Thesis Statement in one or two sentences.

It should state an opinion or idea, be specific, a strong clear claim, and supported with a variety of evidence.
Creating an Outline

• Outlining your ideas and thoughts help to organize your essay, as well as write it.
  – You can do this with a basic outline or any other graphic organizer you so choose.
• It may even help you get past your Writer’s Block! How about that?

ESAY OUTLINE

1. Introductory Paragraph
   A. Background Information (Who? What? Where? Why? When?)
   B. Thesis Statement (main idea point of essay)

II. Body Paragraph
   A. Topic Sentence (main idea point of paragraph)
   B. Supporting Sentences
      1. Example detail
      2. Example detail
      3. Example detail

III. Body Paragraph
   A. Topic Sentence (main idea point of paragraph)
   B. Supporting Sentences
      1. Example detail
      2. Example detail
      3. Example detail

IV. Body Paragraph
   A. Topic Sentence (main idea point of paragraph)
   B. Supporting Sentences
      1. Example detail
      2. Example detail
      3. Example detail

V. Concluding Paragraph
   A. Summary of Topic Sentences (Do not introduce new ideas/information)
   B. Restate Thesis (in different words)
### Different Types of Graphic Organizers

#### Compare/Contrast
- T-chart
- Venn Diagram
- Similarities and Differences Chart

#### Argumentative
- Problem-Solution Chart
- Cluster/Word Web
- Fact and Opinion Chart

#### Process/Expository
- Sequence Chart
- Flow Chart
- Clock Chart

#### Critical/Analysis
- Problem-Solution Chart
- KWL Chart
- ISP Chart

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#### Descriptive
- Observation Chart
- Five W’s Chart
- Describing Wheel

#### Narrative
- Story Map
- Cluster/Word Web
- Tree Chart

#### Definition
- Five W’s Chart
- Describing Wheel
- Tree Chart

#### Cause/Effect
- T-chart
- KWL Chart
- Flow Chart

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We all know how to put words onto paper. Is that really writing though? When we write with a purpose certain items are needed. For instance, when you write an expository or process essay you are to inform the reader how to do something. You do this by writing the events that occur in sequential order. If you write about making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, you cannot explain how to spread the jelly without first explaining what supplies are needed.
Breaking Down the Process

Introductions:

- Engage the Reader—A broad statement or a question works well (Funneling).
  - Think of if as putting one dollar into something. Eventually, your dollar will produce a whole lot more, right? Put one thought into a readers head, and then, eventually broaden it to a larger thought or group of thoughts.

- Thesis Statement—It should be stated clearly.

- State your points (Not always necessary)—Go over the two or more points that support your thesis (Sometimes included in thesis).
Breaking Down the Process

Body Paragraphs:
- Transition – This is to help make the whole essay flow together instead of just jumping from one point to another. (This is where those transitional words come in handy.)
  
  Think about a production line. If one person falls asleep or a machine breaks, the whole line goes “kaput”.
- Main Idea – Each body paragraph has its own idea or continues the idea from the previous paragraph. The idea should be how it relates or “backs up” the thesis.
Body Paragraphs

• Sub-points or Evidence
  This supports the main ideas of each of your points that support your Thesis. Everything in your essay is dependent on everything else. Nothing can stand on its own.
Breaking Down the Process

Conclusions:

– Sum-up—Go over your paper in its entirety.
– Thesis—Rephrase and restate your thesis to remind the reader what the overall idea of your paper was.
– End—Give a nice last sentence that leaves an impression on the reader.
Proofreading/Revising

After you have finished writing your paper, you need to make sure that you:

– Check your content
– Check for grammar and spelling errors
– If necessary, check your citations’ format (in-text and reference page).
Make sure you have covered everything that you wanted to and that you have thoroughly supported your thesis.

If you don’t support your thesis, then you do not have much of an essay.

When you write an essay you have to be all in.
Grammar and Spelling

Make sure you do not have any comma splices, fragmented sentences, run-ons, missing commas, misuses of commas and semicolons, parallel structure, homonym mix-ups, etc. Also, make sure that you don’t have any words misspelled or are repetitive with others.

Having grammatical or spelling errors can sometimes be distracting to the reader, who will then not grasp the entirety of your essay.

Theses errors are like boo boos. If you have so many, they get really obvious. Cover up or fix those boo boos.
Citations

If you mess up on your citations, it can lead your instructor to believe that you have plagiarized, and then you will receive the grade only appropriate for such. Also, make sure that your headers and page numbers are correct as well.

Citations are important to use when doing research papers. However, you can overuse them. Citations are used to make your paper credible if necessary. They are also used to enhance or back up what YOU are saying.

Be sure to use the correct format: MLA, APA, or Chicago.

Plagiarizing is stealing, and stealing is wrong. No one likes to be accused of stealing, so cite correctly.

Also, others like their credit. So, give credit when credit is due.
Good Practice

A good way to check for errors is to read your paper aloud. Generally, whenever you breathe, you need to have some sort of punctuation.
Any Questions?