



English Essay Template

Introduction

- State the **title** of the work, the **author's name** and the **date** of publication. If relevant to your essay, provide the historical context of the text/author.
- Outline the **main ideas** of the text and introduce any important characters, settings, or details that you will address in the body of your essay. Summarize these points in about two sentences.
- State your **thesis**. Remember a thesis should include your main idea, argument, or lens you interpret the text through, *and* your main supporting arguments.

Body

- **Topic sentence:** note that topic and concluding sentences shouldn't include quotes. In the subsequent body paragraphs after your first one, use transitions in your topic sentences for coherence. For example: *In addition to x (main idea of above paragraph), y also supports (thesis idea).*
- Set up + supporting evidence (direct quote or paraphrase) **#1**: English essays depend on direct quotations more than paraphrases, as the *way* the author uses language is often intentional and can help prove your point more effectively than a paraphrase. Remember to always explain the quote in your own words (see our *Integrating Quotes in MLA and APA* resource for more on this).
- After your quote, analyze/relate it to your overall argument in about two sentences. This is not a strict rule, but try not to write more than three sentences explaining one piece of evidence.
- Set up + supporting evidence **#2** and analysis.
- Set up + supporting evidence **#3**. Three quotes or paraphrases per paragraph is the rule of thumb for basic essays, but not a strict rule.
- **Concluding sentence.**

Conclusion

- **Restate** your thesis in new words.
- Summarize your **main ideas** (main idea of each paragraph or section) with new and stronger language.
- End with a **call to action**, **closing thought**, or by **relating** your paper to larger concepts.

Remember not to introduce any new information or ideas in your concluding paragraph!



Writing Centre

English Essay Outline

Introduction

Hook

Background Information

Thesis Statement

Body Paragraphs

Topic Sentence

Supporting Evidence #1

Analysis

Supporting Evidence #2

Analysis

Supporting Evidence #3

Analysis

Concluding Sentence

Conclusion

Restate Thesis

Summarize main points/paragraphs

Relate to larger concepts, call to action, or final thought
