

# Essay Structures

Carousel Answer Key

# “Lessons from the Recreation Story”

By: Deborah McGregor

# Structure: Cause and Effect Essay

- Fits the Purpose: **This essay shows how one situation or event causes another.** For example, Deborah McGregor **explores how the sharing of creation stories results in a respectful relationship with nature** and therefore improved sustainability.
- Her exploration of one particular creation story illustrates the importance of storytelling in order to **lead to discovery and new ways of seeing environmentalism as a relationship rather than a chore or expectation put on us by scientists and environmentalists.**
- **The thesis is implicit** but clearly **identifies the cause and the effect using block method.** Page. 28 explores all examples associated with the cause (the nature of storytelling and the lessons learned from stories) and then the next page discusses the relationship between understanding these stories and being better stewards of creation.

# “People Like Me”

By Emily Bernard

# Example (or Exemplification) Essay

- Bernard provides various examples, anecdotes, and images to hint at the thesis, and these life stories (or anecdotes) are the central organizing feature of the essay making up more than 50% of the text.
- She urges the audience to understand her struggles as an Ethiopian woman living in Southern America by helping them see it in action through clearly illustrated examples from her life, her friends' lives and her children's experiences.
- The author may also be attempting to highlight a reality within society in order to suggest a better alternative (correction of erroneous views)
- The thesis is usually implicit
- Types of examples used: personal experiences, hypothetical examples, quotations, statistic, anecdotes, analogies.
- Contain bias and are often persuasive in nature

“Why Glamorous Lifestyle is Dangerous  
and Deadly”

# Argument/Persuasion Essay Criteria

- A clear, arguable, thesis statement is clearly stated: “Though...magazines are supposedly for entertainment, they still have a significant impact on the minds of people who read them...”(1)
- There are persuasive techniques and rhetoric used to appeal to the audience’s emotions. For example, the author uses pathos (need for belonging) and appeals to people’s need for credible evidence by including ethos and logos. (I would give specific examples and analyze them to support this point.)
- There may be a correction of erroneous views (the writer indicates that our current appreciation for glamour is actually problematic and give suggestions for a different world view)
- Authoritative tone
- There is specific evidence that clearly supports the argument presented in the thesis and it was clearly broken down into an essay with subtopics and support.
- There is a clear bias in the essay in favour of the author’s specific thesis.

“My Body Is My Own Business”



# Compare/Contrast + Cause and Effect

## “My Body is My Own Business”

- The thesis is implied through the constant comparisons between stereotypes and the author’s reality throughout the text and then it is directly stated in the end. (deductive - makes a specific conclusion from general observations)
- This could be considered a cause and effect essay in the sense that the author introduces the cause (constant stereotyping and objectification in society) and the effect (needing to find liberty through the hijab)
- This could also be a comparative essay using a point by point method of comparison (stereotype vs author’s reality).
- Thesis is stated in the end: “True equality will be had only when women abstain from displaying themselves to get attention and when they do not need to defend their right to keep their bodies to themselves”
- Let’s discuss: Rhetoric, tone, target audience

**“51 Percent Minority”**

# 51 Percent Minority: Compare/Contrast

- This essay uses the block method: explores scenarios or anecdotes of discrimination that could happen against various groups but that doesn't because it would be illegal and compares this with discrimination that existed against women during the time when this essay was written (originally 1980).
- Clear thesis: There is gender inequality in Canada. This insight arises through the comparisons made in the essay.
- Uses pathos and logos to persuade - I would give specific examples from the text
- Uses repetition, anecdotes, irony, anaphora, juxtaposition, rhetorical question...to engage the audience and to create bias in favour of the thesis