

# Essay Structures

NOTES

# Argument/Persuasion Essay Criteria

- A clear, arguable, thesis statement is either directly stated or clearly implied
- There are persuasive techniques and rhetoric used to appeal to the audience's emotions (pathos), need for belonging or need for credible evidence (ethos), and logic (logos)
- There may be a correction of erroneous views (the writer will indicate a current erroneous state that exists and offer a correction)
- Authoritative tone
- Formal or Informal
- There is specific evidence that clearly supports the argument presented in the thesis
- There is a clear bias in the essay

# Example (or Exemplification) Essay

- provides various examples, anecdotes, and images to hint at the thesis
- examples are not only used to support or explain points, but examples are the central organizing feature of the essay (examples make up more than 50% of the text)
- The objective is to entertain and to urge the audience to understand a topic by helping them see it in action. The objective is to clearly illustrate an opinion on a topic.
- 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

# “You Are Not Special” Speech as an Example Essay

- he provides examples of ceremonies considered important milestones in society and alludes to how normalized these are and therefore how not special they are)
- then he gives personal anecdotes, examples, observations are used and “your” is repeated to exemplify how the focus is selfish - kids have been raised to expect to be celebrated - you
- provides specific “empirical evidence” as examples of exactly how many people are reaching the same “special” milestones
- provides a solution to erroneous selfish behaviour: “Love everything you love...caterer” (2).
- contains many rhetorical devices used persuasively

# PRACTICE

Read “I don’t Suffer Fools Gladly” and answer the following using proper paragraph structure:

1. Explore and defend how this is a good example of an exemplification essay.
2. Identify and defend the tone.
3. Is this text persuasive? Support your answer with specific references to the text, rhetoric, and persuasive appeals.
4. Do you like or dislike this text?

Read “Don’t You Think It’s Time to Start Thinking?” - be prepared to debate the following (brainstorm your ideas on paper):

1. The thesis is similar to “I Don’t Suffer Fools Gladly” but the texts use a different structure and have very different tones. Which text do you prefer and why?
2. Which text is more persuasive and why?

# The Compare and Contrast Essay (or paragraph)

- Purpose: to show how two things are alike or unlike in order to arrive at some truth.
- Subjects of the same general type are chosen (two short fiction texts or authors) and compared using one of two organizational systems:
  - A. Block Method
  - B. Point by Point Method
- Specific supports (textual evidence) must make up at least half of the essay. The essay must give equal space to each subject.
- The thesis is usually explicit
- The thesis explores the key insight that arises as a result of the comparison (ex: one essay may use rhetorical devices more persuasively, which is revealed when both texts are contrasted or both texts may effectively challenge social values which is revealed in their comparison)

# Cause and Effect Essay

- Purpose: to show how one situation or event causes another. This type of essay answers the question why an event happened or what happened as a result of a particular event (ex. causes of the decrease of failure rates )
- A good cause and effect essay will lead to discovery and new ways of seeing something.
- The thesis is usually explicit and identifies both the cause and the effect.
- The body is broken down using either the block method (one paragraph to explore all examples associated with the cause, the next paragraph explores all examples associated with the effect, and this can repeat) or the point-by-point method) one cause is indicated followed immediately by the effect and this pattern is repeated throughout for each subtopic.