

SAMPLE ESSAY with Parenthetical

Font
Times New Roman
Size 12

Header includes your last
name and page number at
the right margin

Doe 1

The MLA heading
appears in the upper
left corner of the
first page and
includes the
student's name,
teacher's name,
class name, and
date.

Jane Doe
Mrs. Smith
Biology 101
15 January 2005

The "Title" is centered in title case in the
same size and font treatment as the rest
of the paper.

Expository Essays: The Most Common Form

The "Opening
Paragraph" leads up
to the thesis
statement.

It should be easy to gain the reader's attention with an interesting hook because expository essays are the most common form of essay written. An expository essay is usually rigid in structure. It will include an opening paragraph, several supporting paragraphs, and a closing paragraph. When writing your essay, the opening paragraph is for obtaining the attention of the reader. Some ideas are to ask question(s) about the topic, provide an interesting story, present a fact or statistic, quote an expert, or define an important term. Expository essays are used anytime you need to inform, explain, examine, discuss, or illustrate by writing. A clear and precise thesis statement is needed in the introductory paragraph of an expository essay along with reliable information throughout the essay to support it.

Page Setup
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The body of an expository essay should include the main points or facts that support the thesis. According to Writer's INC, facts are "statements and statistics that add support and validity to your essays" (Kemper 36). Quotations from an expert will also enhance your essay and

This is an example. Essays may vary by instructor. Be sure to get teacher requirements **before** completing!

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The "Body of Essay" develops the main idea stated in the thesis and contains unified paragraphs that demonstrate a clear understanding of the subject, an authority of the subject, and supporting details.

The "Closing Paragraph" summarizes the essay and clinches it with a final thought.

References would be listed on a separate page. Continue numbering pages and using the same formatting procedures.

back up your thesis. Giving examples is also important. You may also analyze the subject of your essay to show the reader on what to focus.

When there is a shift or change in the essay, you should begin a new paragraph. Your middle paragraphs should be arranged in the best possible way. You can arrange them by order of importance, by classification, by time, or something associated with your subject. To create a fluid essay, the first sentence of the new paragraph should somehow be related to the prior paragraph.

Some elements of prewriting are choosing a subject, gathering details, forming a thesis statement, and planning your essay. To form a thesis statement, you need a specific subject with a limited focus. You may revise your statement as you research your subject.

Your final paragraph, the conclusion, should include enough information to remind the reader of the main idea of the subject and reflect back on the thesis. It should also tie together the main points of the body paragraph. You may also want to comment on the future of your subject. The bottom line is that because it is the most common form of composition, you will write the expository essay many times throughout your education. If you know the elements of the expository essay and the proper method of formatting the paper, you should be well on your way to a quality essay.

This is an example. Essays may vary by instructor. Be sure to get teacher requirements **before** completing!