**Original text**

Understanding Essays and How to Write Them

There’s a lot more to essays than just the stereotypical impression of a dreaded assignment. Contrary to what a lot of people (especially schoolkids) may know or think, essays aren’t just some sort of boring two-page papers written on topics like “My Favorite Teacher” or “My First Pet”.

Writing essays is a whole art. There are different varieties of essays, and there are different rules and regulations that you have to follow when writing them. If you start doing some research about essay writing, you could get a little overwhelmed with all the stuff that you’d find.

But don’t worry. In this guide, we’re going to start at the bottom by looking at what essays are, what types they're divided into, how they're written and so on. We'll break our discussion up into parts so that it’s easy for you to go through them.

**Paraphrased text**

Who are they?

What are term papers?

To start our tutorial, let's take a look at what an essay really is.

If you go online to look up the definition of the word "essay", you can find several definitions. However, if we wanted to describe the meaning of words simply, we could say that:

"An essay is a short text written on a particular topic."

On several online sources, you can find words like:

"...an essay is an article that expresses the opinion or point of view of the author..." But that definition would not be appropriate if we consider narrative essays. Narrative essays can be, not a point of view or an opinion on a topic, but simply a narrative or an experience given by the author.

Likewise, some sources may interpret essays as a passage written to convince the reader. Again, this definition would not apply to narrative and descriptive texts as both can be written for explanatory and illustrative purposes.

Considering the above, we can understand that the basic definition, i.e. the definition given in quotation marks, is the best definition to describe what an essay is.

We discussed the elements of narrative and descriptive writing in the previous section. These two are basically essay types, and there are many others along with them. And that is what we will talk about now.

As for test types, there is no single set of universally accepted and standardized tests that we can list here. If you happen to be looking online, you will find that many different sources have their own lists of test types. Some of them divide the categories into five different categories while others go up to ten categories. In our opinion, the test types can be satisfactorily explained by the following classification:

descriptive essay

persuasive essay

comparison test

autobiographical essay

explanatory essay

Let's look at each of these in detail.

Descriptive essays are types of essays written with the purpose of describing, representing, and identifying a particular idea, object, person, or place. These types of essays are characterized by their cold, third-person approach. In other words, they are not personally biased and are not written with the intention of proving a point or an argument.

Here are some topics on which a descriptive essay can be written:

My school

My city

The first potato I planted in a flower pot at my uncle's barn

computer

light bulb

Strange person behind my desk

Et cetera. Incidentally, most of the texts assigned to lower graders are of the descriptive type.

2. Persuasive essay

A persuasive essay is an essay written with the purpose of making the reader believe in an idea or concept, or for the purpose of getting them to accept their point of view on it.

Unlike descriptive essays, persuasive essays are motivated by strong personal bias and focus on one's own ideas or views on a given topic.

Here are some topics on which persuasive essays can be written:

Should plagiarism be allowed? Should I sew my own office uniform?

Should unintentional plagiarism be punished?

Can you eat boiled potatoes with cream and sugar?

Descriptive essays are usually given to high school or college students. However, that is not a fixed rule.