

Important English Grammar Notes for Essay Writing

1. **Modals** (Present form / Past form)

Can / Could

Will / Would

Shall / Should

May / Might

Do / Did

To

The words (verbs) after these modals must always be in root form which is the basic part of a verb without adding '-ing' or '-ed'.

2. Words (Verbs) after 'has', 'have' or 'had' must be in **past participle form**.

Example 1: has written ('written' is the past participle form of the verb 'write')

Example 2: has held ('held' is the past participle form of the verb 'hold')

3. In a sentence where there are two verbs the first* verb must have the word 'had' in front of it.

Example: Eric told his father about what had happened to him.

*The first activity done / happened.

4. After these words the verb must be added '-ing'.

after, before, while, as, when, for, by

Examples:

Before eating

After trekking

By writing

5. Use **articles** 'a', 'and', 'the' before nouns.

Examples:

The grammar notes

A writing guide

An essay

6. Use **auxiliaries** or **auxiliary verbs** (is, are, am, was, were) before adjective.

The essay writing guide is useful.

Good Essays website is essential to everyone who wants to write a better essay.

7. During examinations, you should not use **contractions** such as didn't, can't... Use did not or cannot instead.

Step-by-step Essay Writing Guide

Learn how to write an essay by following the step-by-step essay writing guide listed below. This simple essay writing guide helps you to be an effective writer and to write an essay in five steps.

Essay Writing Guide

Step 1: [Choosing Your Preferable Essay Topic](#)

Step 2: [Brainstorming Ideas for Your Essay](#)

Step 3: [Organizing and Outlining Your Essay](#)

Step 4: [Writing Introduction, Body and Conclusion](#)

Step 5: [Proofreading and Final Editing Your Essay](#)

Choose Your Preferable Essay Topic

When you are given a number of essay topics to choose from, for instance, in SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia), you should study each of the essay topics carefully. For your information, [SPM English 1119](#) Continuous Writing consists of five essay questions. SPM candidates are required to choose one of the essay topics and write a composition of at least 350 words. The essay topics given may be [descriptive](#) , [narrative](#) or [others](#).

When choosing your preferable essay topic, you should repeatedly ask yourself "Am I confident of writing this topic?" Choose the one that you have complete confidence of writing it. You will possibly write a poor essay or run out of points if you lack confidence in yourself.

During examination, choose an essay topic that you have interest in it or it sounds familiar to you. For practice purpose, choose any topics that you would like to try writing it. It can be the topic that you have no interest in or even the one that you dare not write during examination! You may gain confidence as you do more practices.

After you have chosen your preferable essay topic, you can now proceed to the next step: Brainstorm Ideas for Your Essay.

Brainstorm Ideas for Your Essay

Now, you have to brainstorm ideas related to the essay topic you have chosen previously. When you are brainstorming ideas, there is only one rule to adhere: no idea is ruled out during the period of the brainstorming. As with brainstorming, do not reject anything at this stage. Grammar or spelling is not important during brainstorming. Do not waste your time correcting grammar or spelling errors.

There are three methods to brainstorm ideas:

- Create a List
- Draw a Mind Map
- Ask and Answer Wh-questions

Create a List

This method is simple and effective. All you need to do is to create a list of words and short sentences related to the essay topic chosen.

Essay Topic: The Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet

Email is cheaper

Pornographic

Explicit content

Skype – free online call

Internet messenger like ICQ, MSN messenger, Yahoo Messenger

Virus

Hacker

Internet Hacking

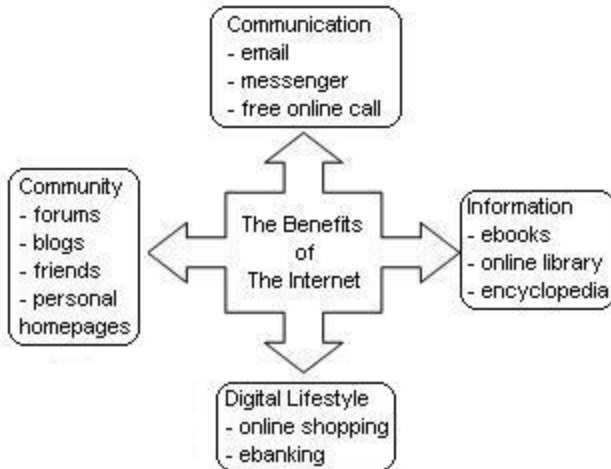
Online Banking

Blog

... (The list goes on and on until you really run out of ideas)

Draw a Mind Map

You can choose from a variety of mind maps to draw. Then, you should write the points on the mind map. Do not waste your time drawing a complex mind map! A simple mind map will look like this.



Mind Map <http://GoodEssays.blogspot.com>

Using mind map, all your points are grouped together neatly for easy reference. Mind map is highly recommended for reflective essays and factual essays.

Ask and Answer Wh-questions

Ask yourself as much as possible Wh-questions related to the essay topic chosen. This writing method is suitable for descriptive essays, narrative essays and reports.

Essay Topic: A Hit-and-run Accident

When it happens?

How it happens?

Why it occurs?

What is the brand of the hit-and-run car?

Where it happens?

Who is the victim?

Answers to these questions are the points for your essay.

After you have finished brainstorming ideas, you can proceed to the next step: Organize and Outline Your Essay.

Organize and Outline Your Essay

Organize the Points

In this step, you are going to organize the points which you have brainstormed in the previous step. First and foremost, you have to decide which of the points is suitable for your well-chosen essay topic. Cancel the unsuitable points carefully.

Then, number the remaining points according to their importance. The most important point is numbered 1 followed by points numbered 2, 3, 4...

Outline Your Essay

Outline your essay so that you know exactly what kind of essay you will produce later. This step also makes sure that you will not be running out of points in the middle of your writing process. You can plan your essay outline like this:

Essay Topic: The Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet

Introduction: Introduces the increasing use of Internet in the modern society.

Body: Three paragraphs on the advantages and two paragraphs on the disadvantages of the Internet.

Conclusion: Concludes the pros and cons of the Internet depend on the users and their use of the Internet.

Write Introduction, Body and Conclusion

Introduction

A good introduction will surely give the reader a good impression. There are several types of introduction to start your essay:

Definition - According to the English dictionary, Internet is a computer system that allows millions of computer users around the world to exchange information...

Question - Do you know that the invention of the Internet has revolutionized the business world? What are the pros and cons of the Internet? ...

Fact - A recent survey on the Internet suggested that more than 60 per cent of the users receive spam emails daily...

Dialogue - "Son, can you please help me to pay the bills online?" The use of the Internet benefits not only the Internet-literates but also the illiterate ones...

Quotation - No man is an island. Everyone needs friends in his life...

Body

Now you need not worry about running out of points, so you can focus on paragraphing. A good

paragraphing is essential for a good essay.

Include only one topic sentence which contains one main idea in one paragraph. Support the topic sentence with some elaborations, examples and further details or information. You should write your essay until you have nothing to write anymore.

Be specific in your essay and avoid generalization. A too general sentence is hard to support your topic sentence. Maintain the right tone and coherence in your essay. If a piece of writing is coherent, it is easy to understand because it is clear and reasonable.

Use logical connectors to join sentences and maintain coherence. Here is a list of useful logical connectors:

To add another related point: and, also, too, besides, as well, in addition (to), furthermore

To add a similar point: similarly

To connect two statements or phrases when the second one adds something different or seems surprising after the first one: but, however, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the other hand, yet, whereas, while, except

To show connection between actions and consequences: so, therefore, so that, as a result, consequently, then, thus

When a particular fact does not prevent something from happening: although, though, in spite of, despite

Conclusion

End your conclusion carefully and clearly. Do not give the reader a vague idea about the essay topic you have just written. Do not end your essay like this: There are some advantages and disadvantages of the Internet. You can include your point of view or your thoughts on the essay topic in the conclusion of your essay. Try to start your conclusion with one of these words: In conclusion, In a nut shell, So, Personally

Proofread and Final Edit Your Essay

After you have written your essay, you should proofread the essay in order to correct any mistakes in it.

Read through your well-written essay and check for gross errors and first draft slips.

Edit your essay where necessary. Replace some of the poor words with vocabulary. Poor words include non-specific words which convey a too general idea to the readers. For instance, the word 'happy', 'sad', 'say', 'walk' ...

Specific Words

The more specific words for 'happy' - cheerful, content, pleased, be tickled, gloat, gleeful...

The more specific words for 'sad' - upset, miserable, dejected, wistful, mournful...

The more specific words for 'say' - recommend, urge, blame, accuse, compliment, whisper, mumble...

The more specific words for 'walk' - stroll, hike, trek, wander, roam, prowl...

Effective Writer

Congratulations! You have finally completed your essay lessons! You don't have to be a professional writer to write a good essay. By following the free essay writing guide by Good Essays, you are now an effective writer!

Persuasive Essay Writing Guide - Persuasive Essays Part 2

Writing Persuasive Essay

In **persuasive writing**, the persuasive essay writer try to convince the readers to agree with the writer's facts, share the values, accept the argument and conclusions and adopt the writer's way of thinking.

Writing persuasive essays is easy; all you need is to follow this persuasive essay writing guide. The six steps persuasive essay writing guide aims to help you to write a professional piece of persuasive essay.

How to Write a Persuasive Essay

1. **Brainstorm ideas** for your persuasive essay topic.

List out the facts related to your persuasive essay topic. It is easy to brainstorm ideas related to your essay topic by following the guide we have discussed before.

2. **Write the outline** of your persuasive essay.

Keep in mind that a good persuasive essay consists of at least five paragraphs: one paragraph for introduction, three paragraphs for body and one paragraph for conclusion.

3. **Write the introduction** of your persuasive essay.

The introduction of a persuasive essay is very important to catch the reader's attention. Some writing styles used by most effective writers include:

- Quotation
- Statistic or Fact
- Question
- Strong Statement

4. **Write the body** of your persuasive essay.

Write one topic sentence per paragraph. A topic sentence is a sentence that contains the main point.

Elaborate the topic sentence or main point to be a full paragraph. Put evidence, facts, statistics and/or research in the essay body.

5. **Write the conclusion** of your persuasive essay.

End your essay by summarizing the most important details or points in the essay. Including your personal

comment in the conclusion makes your persuasive essay more convincing.

6. **Proofread your essay** and do some necessary correction.

Read through your essay and correct all spelling or grammatical errors. Make sure your essay is as persuasive as it can be. Try to convince your readers by using stronger language. For instance, replace the modal verb 'may' to 'will'.

In the end, you will notice that writing a persuasive writing need a lot of facts. A piece of fact less writing is unpersuasive and dry. No one will be convinced by this kind of essays. Don't worry since you can actually gather a lot of facts related to your essay topic by doing a quick search using search engine.

The Characteristics of a Good Persuasive Essay – Persuasive Essays Part 4

The Purpose of Writing a Persuasive Essay

We write a persuasive essay to convince the readers to agree with our judgement and adopt our way of thinking. We as the writers try to convince the readers to accept our argument and conclusions besides to share our values. In order to achieve these purposes, we have to write a good persuasive essay with all the characteristics written below.

The Characteristics of a Good Persuasive Essay

Convincing – The readers must be able to feel your confidence through reading your essay. You must be able to communicate your persuasion in writing.

Not too long nor too short – You don't have to write a lengthy thesis statement to deliver your messages. Readers tend to lose their interest quickly when they read a long-winded essay. A comprehensive piece of writing works best to convince the readers.

Written from a reader's perspective – Make sure you don't write from your own (writer's) perspective in writing persuasive essay. Unlike other essay types, persuasive essay fails to catch the readers' attention if it is written from a writer's perspective. Instead, if it is written from the reader's perspective, the persuasive essay looks interesting and persuading.

Support ideas with facts and quotes – Readers always believe the facts included in your essay. Try to include some medical reports, public surveys, newspaper headlines, etc to make your essay more persuasive. Keep in mind that none will be convinced if your essay is dull and hardly to find any fact. Quotation from famous people works equally well too!

Stat a clear conclusion – End your essay with your clear judgement or conclusion. Never end your essay without a clear conclusion or you will fail to deliver your messages. A clear conclusion of your persuasive essay will stay in the reader's mind for a long time.