



### English Essay Template

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#### Introduction

- State the **title** of the work, the **author's name** and the **date** of publication. If relevant to your essay, provide the historical context of the text/author.
- Outline the **main ideas** of the text and introduce any important characters, settings, or details that you will address in the body of your essay. Summarize these points in about two sentences.
- State your **thesis**. Remember a thesis should include your main idea, argument, or lens you interpret the text through, *and* your main supporting arguments.

#### Body

- **Topic sentence:** note that topic and concluding sentences shouldn't include quotes. In the subsequent body paragraphs after your first one, use transitions in your topic sentences for coherence. For example: *In addition to x (main idea of above paragraph), y also supports (thesis idea).*
- Set up + supporting evidence (direct quote or paraphrase) **#1**: English essays depend on direct quotations more than paraphrases, as the *way* the author uses language is often intentional and can help prove your point more effectively than a paraphrase. Remember to always explain the quote in your own words (see our *Integrating Quotes in MLA and APA* resource for more on this).
- After your quote, analyze/relate it to your overall argument in about two sentences. This is not a strict rule, but try not to write more than three sentences explaining one piece of evidence.
- Set up + supporting evidence **#2** and analysis.
- Set up + supporting evidence **#3**. Three quotes or paraphrases per paragraph is the rule of thumb for basic essays, but not a strict rule.
- **Concluding sentence.**

#### Conclusion

- **Restate** your thesis in new words.
- Summarize your **main ideas** (main idea of each paragraph or section) with new and stronger language.
- End with a **call to action**, **closing thought**, or by **relating** your paper to larger concepts.

*Remember not to introduce any new information or ideas in your concluding paragraph!*



## Writing Centre

### English Essay Outline

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#### Introduction

**Hook**

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**Background Information**

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**Thesis Statement**

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#### Body Paragraphs

**Topic Sentence**

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**Supporting Evidence #1**

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**Analysis**

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**Supporting Evidence #2**

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**Analysis**

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**Supporting Evidence #3**

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**Analysis**

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**Concluding Sentence**

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#### Conclusion

**Restate Thesis**

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**Summarize main points/paragraphs**

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**Relate to larger concepts, call to action, or final thought**

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