

Possible Outlines for Various Academic Essays

Persuasive

- I. Introduction with thesis
- II. Reason #1 to support the thesis – in detail and with evidence
- III. Reason #2 to support the thesis – in detail and with evidence
- IV. Reason #3 to support the thesis – in detail and with evidence
- V. Counter-argument with rebuttal, including more evidence if necessary
- VI. Conclusion

Literary Response and Analysis When the Topic is Theme

- I. Introduction with thesis, which is a statement of the text's theme
- II. Summary or description of the text
- III. Analysis of a literary element or device, such as symbolism (see menu)
- IV. Analysis of another literary element or device
- V. Analysis of another literary element or device
- VI. Relate the text to either yourself, to another text or to the world
- VII. Conclusion

Alternate Compare and Contrast

- I. Introduction of items being compared and the reason(s) for the comparison
- II. All comparisons
- III. All contrasts
- IV. Conclusion, which may restate the intro or which may address the reason(s) for the comparison

Literary Response and Analysis When the Topic is Something Else

- I. Introduction with thesis, which is an answer to the question being asked
- II. Answer in greater detail
- III. Evidence from the text to support the answer
- IV. Answer to another question being asked, where appropriate
- V. Evidence from the text to support the answer, where applicable
- VI. Conclusion

Summary

- I. Title, author, genre and theme/thesis of the text being summarized
- II. Main idea of the text
- III. Supporting ideas of the text
- IV. Quotes from the text
- V. Effects/outcomes of the text, if appropriate and if stated *objectively* – no opinions should be included in a summary

Narrative

- I. Set-up (introduction of setting, characters and problem)
- II. Rising Action (the first thing happens)
- III. Climax (the biggest thing happens – the protagonist overcomes the big problem)
- IV. Resolution (aftermath of the climax – the characters go home or start anew)

Descriptive

- I. Introduction of topic
- II. Description of topic using sensory details (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch)
- III. – Use lots of figurative language
- IV. Statement as to why the topic is significant

Expository – Problem and Solution

- V. Definition of problem
- VI. Causes of problem
- VII. Effects of problem
- VIII. Solution of problem

Biography

- I. Introduction of subject with statement of opinion about subject's impact on the world
 - II. Early domestic life
 - III. Education and/or training
 - IV. Career
 - V. Adult domestic life, if appropriate
 - VI. Legacy – detailed examination of subject's impact on the world
 - VII. Conclusion
- Addendum: Bibliography

Expository – Cause and Effect

- I. Introduction of event or occurrence
- II. Cause
- III. Effect
- IV. Additional causes
- V. Additional effects
- VI. Conclusion, which may be a restatement of the thesis or perhaps a call to action

Alternate Cause and Effect

- I. Introduction of event or occurrence
- II. Effect
- III. Cause
- IV. Additional effects
- V. Additional causes
- VI. Conclusion, which may be a restatement of the thesis or perhaps a call to action

Research Report

- I. Introduction of subject with thesis regarding its relevance
 - II. Body with evidence and citations
 - III. Conclusion
- Addendum: Bibliography

Expository – Compare and Contrast

- I. Introduction of items being compared and the reason(s) for the comparison
- II. Item #1 in detail
- III. Item #2 in detail
- IV. What the two items have in common
- V. How they differ
- VI. Conclusion, which may restate the intro or which may address the reason(s) for the comparison