

The Expository Essay

The expository essay requires the student to investigate an idea; collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and establish a thesis/argument on the topic in a clear and concise manner. This is accomplished through comparing and contrasting, the analysis of cause and effect, etcetera (Purdue Writing Lab, n.d.).

The expository essay is typically logical and short in length. In other words, the writer cannot write an emotional response to defend their thesis/argument.

The most common method for writing an expository essay is the five-paragraph approach, which includes all four components of an essay. These consist of:

- An Introductory paragraph: This typically includes the main features of an introduction, such as a hook sentence, an explanation of the hook sentence, a clear, concise thesis statement/argument, discussion points and a transition from the introduction to the body paragraphs.
- Three Body paragraphs: Each body paragraph will contain a topic sentence –or the main idea of the body paragraph—example(s) supporting the topic sentence’s claim, an analysis of why the example(s) are important, connecting the body paragraph to the thesis/argument and a transition from one paragraph to the next.
- A Conclusion: The conclusion goes beyond a summary. It is the writer’s last chance to let the reader understand why the thesis statement is important and to demonstrate how the evidence used is connected, not random.
- Citations: This is used to prove that your assignment is academically honest. At Bow Valley College, most writing assignments will require



the student to use the APA citation style. See the [Library website](#) on how to properly cite references that were used.

Note: While this is an excellent source of reference, students are encouraged to check their syllabus and/or rubric to ensure they include all the requirements of an assignment.

Reference

Purdue Online Writing Lab. (n.d.). *Expository essays*.

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/expository_essays.html