

Lesson- 8 (Class IX-X)

Writing Essays!

Materials Designed by BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL)

Dear readers!

How are you? We hope you all are doing fine and studying all the subjects, including English, regularly. In today's issue you are going to learn how to write good essays. In this regard, you are going to be familiar with different parts of essays and some techniques to write them well.

At first, let us get some basic information about essays.

An essay is a long piece of writing which is written in some paragraphs. Like paragraphs, there are many types of essays such as Descriptive Essays, Narrative Essays, Argumentative Essays and Persuasive Essays. Therefore, when we think of a topic for writing an essay we need to decide what type of essay it will be or what information will be included in it.

Besides, we need to check a few vital points too

In an essay there should be a creative, thoughtful and interesting title.

The essay should have three clear parts: introduction, body and conclusion.

There should be a good connection between paragraphs.

The spelling, punctuation and grammar should be correct.

Parts of an Essay!



Essays, like sandwiches or burgers, are divided into different parts. These parts are :

- Introduction
- Body
- Conclusion

Introduction

An Introduction is the beginning of an essay. It is a short paragraph which provides some general information about the topic which you are writing. As this is the opening of your essay, it should be written in such a way that readers become interested to read your whole essay. If you face problems thinking about a good introduction, leave some space and write it later - after you finish writing the body or conclusion. You will be surprised to know that many good writers often follow this technique.

BODY

The Body of an essay is a very important part. There can be two or three or even more paragraphs here. Remember, the body should always be divided into paragraphs. Never write just one long paragraph as the gap between paragraphs can make your essay easier to read. Moreover, having paragraphs shows that you have dealt with more than one idea!

Conclusion

The Conclusion is the end part of the essay. It is a short paragraph. It often has the same idea as the Introduction, but in different words.

Here, you can see pictures of three great Bangalees: Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Michael Madhusudhan Dutta. Additionally, there is a descriptive essay about one of them, but without mentioning the name.

Now, read the essay carefully and guess whose description is given here. Share your understanding with your friends and teachers. You can also write a title for the essay by completing the following blank with the appropriate name.

The life of.....



Rabindranath Tagore Kazi Nazrul Islam Michael Madhusudhan Dutta

..... was a Bengali poet, musician, revolutionary and philosopher who is best known for pioneering works of Bengali poetry. He is popularly known as the Rebel Poet as many of his works showcase an intense rebellion against oppression of humans through slavery, hatred and tradition. He is officially recognized as the national poet of Bangladesh and commemorated in India. Scholars credit him for beginning a cultural renaissance in the Muslim community of Bengal. By creating a bridge from traditional Islam to modern sensibility, helped to bring his people into a new relationship with modern life.

Born in a poor Muslim family, received religious education and worked as a *muezzin* at a local mosque. He learnt about poetry, drama and literature while working with theatrical groups.

After a stint in the British Indian Army, established himself as a journalist in Kolkata (then Calcutta). He revolted against the British Raj through his poetic works, such as "Bidrohi" (The Rebel) and "Bhangar Gaan" (The Song of Destruction), as well as his publication "Dhumketu" (The Comet). While in prison, he wrote the "Rajbandir Jabanbandi" ("Deposition of a Political Prisoner"), intensifying his criticism against British rule. also condemned Muslim religious fundamentalism. He remained active in political organizations and literary, art, and music societies.

.....'s writings explore themes such as love, freedom, and revolution. He opposed all bigotry, including religious and gender. His patriotic stance against the oppression of British rule often earned him prison time. He wrote short stories, novels, and essays but is best-known for his poems in which he pioneered new forms such as Bengali ghazals. wrote and composed music for his nearly 3000 songs which are collectively known as Sangeet (..... songs) and widely popular today. At the age of 43 (in 1942) he began showing the signs of an unknown disease, losing his voice and memory. Suffering from Pick's Disease, as later diagnosed by Dr. Hans Hoff in Vienna, gradually caught by an incurable mental illness which forced him to live in isolation for many years. Invited by the Government of Bangladesh, and his family moved to Dhaka in 1972, where he died four years later.

[The text is collected and abridged from www.newworldencyclopedia.org]

Ways to write an Effective Title

A title provides a general idea about your essay to the readers. Therefore, it should be descriptive which means it should announce the topic clearly, accurately, and as briefly (within 15 words) as possible.

Ways to write an Effective Conclusion!

Your conclusion should try to wrap up and summarize all the ideas discussed in the body part. You can re-read the introduction and the body parts, and ask yourself the question 'So what?' Hopefully, you will get necessary information to write the conclusion.

Vocabulary of the Week

- Arouse** (verb): to cause someone to have a particular feeling
- Bigotry** (noun): unreasonable beliefs
- Briefly** (adverb): for a short time
- Commemorate** (verb): to remember officially
- Condemn** (verb): to criticize something or someone strongly
- Deposition** (noun): written statement made in a court of law
- Diagnose** (verb): to recognize and name the exact character of a disease or a problem, by examining it
- Incurable** (adjective): not able to be healed or cured
- Intense** (adjective): very strong
- Isolation** (noun): the condition of being alone, especially when this makes you feel unhappy
- Nostalgic** (adjective): feeling happy and sometimes slightly sad when you think about things that happened in the past
- Oppression** (noun): when people are ruled in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom
- Outline** (noun): the main shape of something, without any details
- Pioneer** (verb): to be one of the first people to do something
- Rebel** (noun): a person who shows his/ her disagreement with the ideas of people in authority or of society by behaving differently
- Revolutionary** (adjective): involved in or relating to a revolution
- Showcase** (verb): to show the best qualities of something
- Stance** (noun): a way of thinking about something
- Stint** (noun): a fixed or limited period of time spent doing a particular activity
- Wrap** (verb): completing something successfully

[Source: www.dictionary.cambridge.org]

Sample INTRODUCTION of a Narrative Essay titled 'A Memorable Event'

Our life is full of memories: some are sweet and some give us pain. However, whenever we get some free time we become nostalgic, go back to the past and recall the memorable events. I also have some great memories in my life which I always remember. A visit to Rangamati with some of my friends is one of them. The event is remarkable to me for many reasons. In this essay I am going to write about the journey and will explain why it is an unforgettable memory to me.

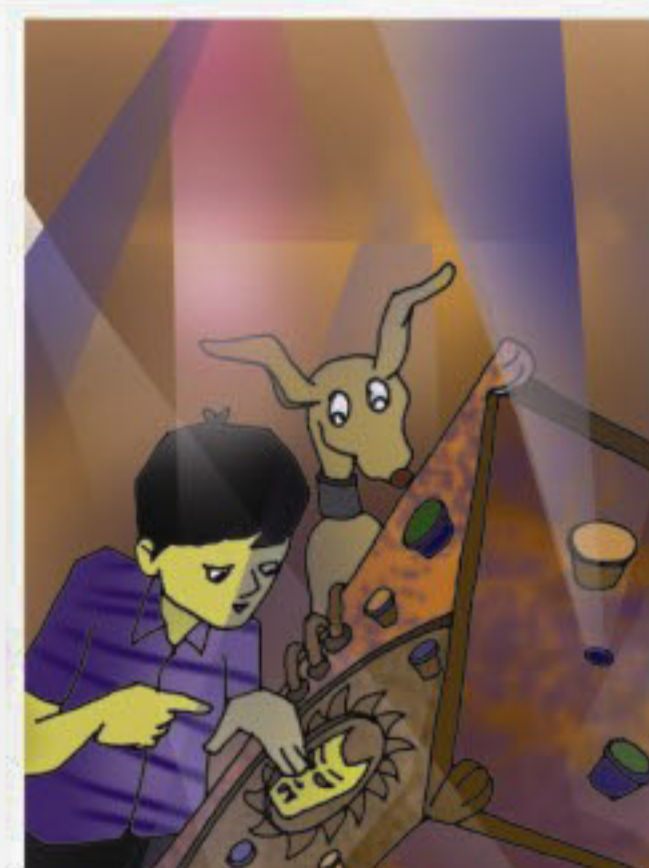
This part provides some general information about 'memories' and tells us why and how we recall them. This information may easily attract a reader to read this essay.

This part clarifies the topic. It also gives some background information about the writer's memorable event.

This part provides an outline of the entire essay. Here, the writer is telling us about the content he/ she is going to write in the body and concluding parts.



Illustration : Yousof Ali Khan hira



Just after pressing the button Ratul and Shanto start hearing the same sound...Tm...Tmm...Tmm..



They do not have to wait for too long...The door of the vault opens automatically...A strange light comes out from inside...

Ratul and Shanto unexpectedly see a dress walking out from the vault...it is just a dress!

Healthy food ensures a healthy life...

An unhealthy diet is a major risk factor for a number of chronic diseases including high blood pressure, diabetes, overweight/obesity, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. The WHO (World Health Organization) estimates that 2.7 million deaths are attributable to a diet with less fruits and vegetables every year. So choose a healthy meal, always.

Let us take healthy food for a healthy life.

