

English 092 Unit 2.4

Expository Essay Writing Assignment

Assignment:

Write an expository essay of about 600 words using **classification, compare and contrast, or cause and effect** method of development. You may choose your own topic or select from one of the topics further down this page. Cause and Effect is the most difficult of these three types to master.

Here are some points to guide you in preparing your essay:

- Prepare an **outline** of your essay first.
- Your essay should have an **introductory paragraph**, at least **three body or supporting paragraphs**, and a **concluding paragraph**.
- Your introductory paragraph should contain a **thesis statement which previews the 3 main points** you will use for each of the body paragraphs. (Watch for parallelism in your thesis statement.) Your thesis should usually be the last sentence in your intro paragraph.
- Each of your **body paragraphs should provide support** for your main points. They should be in the same order as the 3 points you introduced in the first paragraph.
- Consider your **audience** and **purpose**. Who are the potential readers of your essay, and why would they read your work?
- **Double space** and **word-process** your essay.
- Include your name, instructor's name, date, course, and title of assignment. (see page 295 (**220, 5th Edition**) for instructions on formatting a page according to MLA guidelines)
- Give your essay a **title that catches the reader's attention**. Not Compare and Contrast Essay

Before you begin your first draft, prepare an outline of the structure of your essay. See Chapter 6 (Ch. 5, 5th Edition) in *Essay Essentials*.

Also look at the two sample essays at the end of this page below. Notice how the writers have organized their ideas and how each essay has a clear purpose.

Suggested Topics

Classification (Three or 4 Types of something)

1. 3 Types of students/teachers/parents
2. 3 Types of friendships/relationships
3. 3 Types of jobs (as opposed to careers)
4. 3 Types of careers (as opposed to jobs)
5. 3 Types of vacations
6. 3 Types of diets
7. 3 Types of television shows/movies/books/computers/video games/etc.
8. 3 Types of hobbies/sports/leisure activities
9. 3 Types of bad habits
10. 3 Types of transportation

Compare and Contrast (Comparing or Contrasting 3 characteristics of 2 things)

1. Two cities or places to live in or visit
 2. Two different types of people
 3. Two schools/stores/houses/apartments/restaurants/etc.
 4. Two different ways of doing something e.g., formal learning vs. learning on the job
 5. Now and then: a person, place or thing
 6. Two different types of jobs/careers
 7. Life before and after: marriage, divorce, children, new job, etc.
 8. Cars, bicycles, computer games, etc.
 9. Big screen movies to videos
 10. Ideal diet to most diets
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Cause and Effect (Something causes something else because of 3 things – see Pollution, below, for an example)

1. Pollution causes more damage than other environmental problems because of illness, global warming, and depletion of resources.
2. Success/failure in school, business, relationships
3. Drinking too much coffee, watching too much television, eating too much junk food, etc.
4. Marriage breakdown
5. Stress
6. Procrastination
7. Owning a pet
8. Losing/getting a job
9. Bullying
10. Drug or alcohol dependency
11. An accident or disaster: e.g., a car accident, house fire, etc.

Sample Student Essays

Classification

Rock and Face

In the world of adrenalin seekers and outdoor enthusiasts, lies the perfect sport of rock climbing. This sport consists of you, the rock and the risk. Although new methods of climbing try to make their way into the world of climbing, there remain four distinct styles: top roping, lead climbing, free climbing and bouldering.

Top roping is the most basic form of climbing. As in most methods of climbing it requires two climbers, a belayer and a lead climber. Both partners are connected to the rope. The belayer is anchored to the ground and manages the rope while the climber ascends the rock face. From the belayer, the rope passes through the anchor point, the most fundamental aspect of top roping. The anchor is a system of specialized gear that feeds the rope through from the belayer to the climber. The anchor system is

placed by the climbers at the top of the route, usually on an edge of a cliff, prior to climbing. Should a climber fall, the belayer and the anchor system together prevent the climber from falling via the rope. Because of the preset anchor system, top roping is used by beginner climber. It is less risky and requires less strength than other forms of climbing which involve a more strenuous task of placing anchors.

Lead climbing is the more advanced form of rope climbing and be can divided into two styles: sport climbing and traditional climbing. As in top roping, both methods require a belayer and a climber. The main difference between top roping and lead climbing is that lead climbing doesn't use a preset anchor system. Instead, the anchor system is placed frequently along the route while the climber ascends. Therefore, the anchor is never above the climber and the connecting rope trails his path. While sport climbing you place gear, called quickdraws, through hangers which have been previously bolted into the rock face. The climber then feeds the rope through these quickdraws which he carries with him up the route. These pre placed bolts and hangers allow sport climbers to concentrate more on technique and not so much emphasis on gear placement involved in traditional climbing. Traditional climbing requires the lead climber to place gear, called nuts and cams, into small crevices and constrictions found in the rock face. The nuts and cams, which the climbing also carries with him, [\(CCI\)](#) are used in place of hangers and bolts involved in sport climbing. This form of climbing requires a lot of mental energy as well as physical; not only are there no set areas to place gear but also there is a lot of physics involved in gear placement. Although not common, you will occasionally come across routes which involve both traditional and sport climbing technique.

Free climbing or free soloing is by far the most advanced and dangerous form of climbing, reserved only for the true adventurous in search

of raw intensity. Free climbing is similar to other forms of rope climbing because it involves a set route up the rock face, but different in that it doesn't require a belayer, rope^[CC2] or equipment. Because the climber has no safety system, any wrong move or slip of the finger or toe is more than likely to result in a fatal fall. Anyone who attempts a free climb should have a strong climbing background with years of experience and a lifestyle which revolves around the sport. Needless to say, free climbing is rarely attempted.

A simpler alternative to free climbing is bouldering. Like free climbing, bouldering doesn't require gear or a partner, but different in that climbs usually remain a few meters from the ground. Boulderers^[CC3] will usually climb in pairs, even though it is not necessary. One acts as the spotter while the other boulders the route. The spotter will follow the climber along the boulder moving a crash mat along with him in case of a fall. The spotter attempts to direct the climber's body to the mat if he does fall. Of all climbing methods, bouldering requires the most strength because most routes found on boulders requires the climber to hang upside down for the duration of the climb. Because of the strength developed while bouldering is often used as a form of training for other forms of climbing.

In any method of climbing there is always a risk of fatality. This risk for many climbers brings sheer excitement to the world of climbing and is the reason it is pursued by many of the adrenalin seekers. The gratification found in climbing ^[CC4]continues to inspire new forms and techniques of climbing. There are always new methods attempted by climbers and ^[CC5]climbers are always attempting what hasn't been done.

Cause and Effect

The Death of Conversation

Conversation has been dead for a long time. The day we started using cell phones, email, and instant messages, we changed the way we communicate. Before this we had handwritten letters, telegrams, and traditional landline phones. Talking on the phone or writing a long letter had meaning and was more important than it is today. The advent of these new technologies has improved our lives in many ways. The primary advantage is speed of communication. It has increased from a matter of days to a matter of seconds. The advancements are huge, but not all change is good.[\[CC6\]](#)

Email is extremely convenient. It speeds up communication drastically, but we are losing small pieces of our language along with it. A traditional letter might start with a “Dear Bob,” and finish with a “Best Regards”. This is being replaced with one-line emails such as “hey bob wanna go for lunch at the Italian place?” These small details are being overlooked and lost. Email is always typed, so it’s usually very readable, but also prone to mistakes. When you handwrite a letter, it has a different feel. It has a more personal touch and more thought goes into what you’re writing. Would you write snail mail asking someone to go to lunch? No chance,[\[CC7\]](#) it’s too slow.

Cell phones make the world your public phone booth. You can interrupt somebody at anytime of the day—in class, on the bus, or during a

movie. But what are you really talking about? Are you catching up with a long lost friend, or asking what kind of muffin your girlfriend is eating while she's waiting for her laundry to finish? (I think it's raspberry bran). Before cell phones, conversations were usually longer and had more substance. Phone conversation has little meaning, because we make more calls, more often.

Instant messages are the mini-email. You can receive an instant message on your personal computer or cell phone. They are like the telegrams on speed. They took more time write and usually have at least one paragraph of information. Most instant messages consist of half ideas, and one-word responses. They are filled with acronyms like BRB (be right back), BBL (be back later), and the underused TNSTAAFL (There's no such thing as a free lunch). These shortcuts are much easier to type, but they don't lead to coherent conversations. Instant messages almost always contain spelling mistakes and frequently omit punctuation. They are great for quick business conversation or arranging a meeting between many friends. That's something telegrams weren't really good at. Telegrams are dead, and they are never coming back, but the language of instant messages is no improvement over the language of telegrams.

It's not all bad. We have gained many things with these new technologies. Email costs almost nothing. Instant messages can keep friends [\[CC8\]](#) in close contact anywhere in the world. Cell phones can help you

when you're lost or need directions. But in exchange we have lost the quality and the meaning of our words. The damage is done; now we just have to live it.

For more examples click here... [Essay writing with examples.](#)