# Types of Essay

## Definition of Types of Essay

An [essay](https://literarydevices.net/essay/) is a short academic composition. The word “essay” is derived from a French word “essai” or “essayer,” which mean “trail.”

In composition, however, an essay is a piece of non-[fiction](https://literarydevices.net/fiction/) writing that talks or discusses a specific topic. Presently, essay is part of every degree program.

Each [subject](https://literarydevices.net/subject/) has specific requirements for the essays to be written. Some subjects need longer essays, while others need shorter ones, such as a five-paragraph essay. In composition, the start is made from a five-paragraph essay. Based on the requirements, there are seventeen types of essays.

## Types of Essay

1. [**Definition Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/definition-essay/)As the name suggests, a definition type of essay defines different things, ideas, and perceptions.
2. [**Narrative**](https://literarydevices.net/narrative/)**Essay**A [narrative essay](https://literarydevices.net/narrative-essay/) is a narration like a [short story](https://literarydevices.net/short-story/). It is, however, different from a short story in that it is written in an essay format.
3. [**Descriptive Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/descriptive-essay/)A descriptive essay describes something to make readers feel, smell, see, taste, or hear what is described.
4. [**Expository Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/expository-essay/)An expository essay exposes things in detail to make readers understand without any complications.
5. [**Persuasive Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/persuasive-essay/)A persuasive essay is meant to convince the target [audience](https://literarydevices.net/audience/) to do something or not do something.
6. [**Argumentative Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/argumentative-essay/)An argumentative essay is meant to present arguments in the favor of something. It has an additional fourth [body paragraph](https://literarydevices.net/body-paragraph/) that is meant to present opposite arguments.
7. [**Analytical Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/4243-2/)An analytical essay analyzes something, such as in literature an analytical essay analyzes a piece of literature from different angles.
8. [**Comparison**](https://literarydevices.net/comparison/)**and**[**Contrast**](https://literarydevices.net/contrast/)**Essay**A comparison and contrast essay makes either a comparison, a contrast, or both between two different or similar things.
9. [**Cause and Effect Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/cause-effect-essay/)A cause and effect essay makes readers understand the cause of things, and their effects on other things.
10. [**Critical Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/critical-essay/)A critical essay is written on literary pieces to evaluate them on the basis of their merits or demerits.
11. [**Process Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/process-essay/)A process essay outlines a process of making or breaking or doing something that readers understand fully and are able to do it after reading it.
12. **Synthesis Essay**A synthesis essay means to synthesize different ideas to make a judgement about their merit and demerits.
13. [**Explicatory Essay**](https://literarydevices.net/explicatory-essay/)An explicatory essay is meant to explain a piece of literature. It is often written about poems, short stories, and novels.
14. **Rhetorical Analysis Essay**A rhetorical analysis essay evaluates a speech or a piece of [rhetoric](https://literarydevices.net/rhetoric/) on the basis of rhetorical strategies and devices used in it.
15. **Review Essay**A review essay discusses the merits and demerits of a book and evaluates it through a review.
16. **Simple Essay**A simple essay is just a five-paragraph essay that is written on any topic after it is specified.
17. **Research Essay**A research essay revolves around a research question that is meant to answer some specific question through a research of the relevant literature.