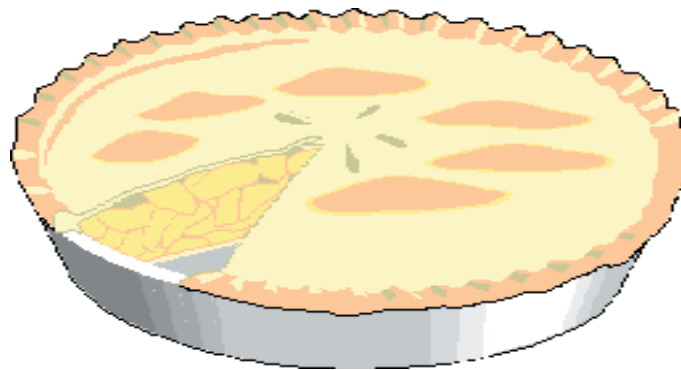


**ESSAYS
ARE AS
EASY
AS**



**ESSAY WRITING
MADE EASY**

(OR AT LEAST NOT SUCH A BIG PAIN IN THE BUTT)

THE SECRET

ESSAYS ARE EASY TO WRITE.

COMPARED TO OTHER FORMS OF WRITING, GOOD ESSAYS ARE THE EASIEST THINGS TO WRITE.

THINK ABOUT WRITING A GOOD POEM.

THINK ABOUT WRITING A GOOD SHORT STORY.

THINK ABOUT WRITING A GOOD SPEECH.

THINK ABOUT WRITING A GOOD SONG

I WOULD MUCH RATHER WRITE AN ESSAY THAN ALMOST ANYTHING ELSE BECAUSE AN ESSAY IS EASY IF YOU FOLLOW SOME SIMPLE STEPS AND USE A BASIC FORMULA.

TOPIC + SUPPORT + ORGANIZATION + THESIS = ESSAY

FOLLOW THE RECIPE**IF IT'S SO EASY
WHY DO MANY PEOPLE FIND IT SO HARD?**

MANY PEOPLE FIND ESSAY WRITING DIFFICULT SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW OR CHOOSE NOT TO FOLLOW THE RECIPE.

JUST LIKE BAKING, OR FIXING A FLAT TIRE, OR TRANSPLANTING A HEART, THERE ARE CERTAIN STEPS THAT MAKE IT EASIER TO COMPLETE THE TASK SUCCESSFULLY. ONCE YOU KNOW THE STEPS OR RECIPE, IT IS EASY, WITH PRACTICE, TO DUPLICATE THE OPERATION WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF SUCCESS.



TOPIC + SUPPORT + ORGANIZATION + THESIS = ESSAY

THE TOPIC

TOPIC + SUPPORT + ORGANIZATION + THESIS = ESSAY

ALL ESSAYS START WITH A TOPIC. THIS TOPIC CAN BE ON A GLOBAL OR LARGE ISSUE (THE CAUSES OF WORLD WAR 2), OR A LOCAL OR SMALL ISSUE (HOW COULD CENTENNIAL BE A BETTER SCHOOL).

NO MATTER WHAT THE TOPIC IS IT POSES A QUESTION THAT NEEDS TO BE ANSWERED.

TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR TOPIC IS AND WHAT IT IS ASKING YOU TO ANSWER. ONCE YOU KNOW WHAT THE TOPIC WANTS, IT IS THEN EASIER TO FIND THE ANSWERS FOR IT.

ALWAYS WRITE OUT THE TOPIC SO THAT IT IS CLEAR IN YOUR MIND (AND ON PAPER) WHAT YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO WRITE ABOUT OR ANSWER.

ONCE YOU CLEARLY UNDERSTAND YOUR TOPIC YOU CAN BEGIN TO GATHER THE INFORMATION THAT WILL SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER.

GETTING THE SUPPORT YOU NEED

TOPIC + SUPPORT + ORGANIZATION + THESIS = ESSAY

ESSAYS REQUIRE SUPPORT. SOMETIMES THIS MAY INCLUDE RESEARCH, QUOTATIONS, OR SIMPLY THOROUGHLY EXPLAINING YOUR IDEAS.

THE SUPPORT IS WHAT YOU WILL BE USING TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT THE TOPIC NEEDS ANSWERED.

WHEN GATHERING YOUR SUPPORT JUST GET AS MUCH RELATED OR PERTINENT INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE — THE MORE RAW MATERIALS YOU HAVE THE EASIER IT WILL BE TO WRITE YOUR ESSAY.

IF YOU ARE DOING RESEARCH ENSURE THAT YOU RECORD WHERE YOU GOT THE INFORMATION, AND, IF APPROPRIATE, WHO SAID IT. BE CAREFUL NOT TO TAKE ANY MATERIAL AND SAY IT'S YOURS WITHOUT GIVING CREDIT TO THE PERSON WHO SAID IT OR WROTE IT. FAILURE TO DO THIS IS **PLAGIARISM.**

GETTING ORGANIZED

TOPIC + SUPPORT + ORGANIZATION + THESIS = ESSAY

NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE INFORMATION TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER TO YOUR TOPIC YOU NEED TO ORGANIZE IT INTO RELATED GROUPS. THESE GROUPS SHOULD HAVE CERTAIN RECOGNIZABLE THINGS IN COMMON.

LOOK AT THE INFORMATION THAT YOU HAVE GATHERED. LAY IT ALL OUT IN FRONT OF YOU. START TO PUT THINGS INTO SPECIFIC GROUPS.

SOMETIMES YOU CAN REWRITE YOUR SUPPORT MATERIALS, OR PUT IT ON NOTECARDS, OR WRITE HEADERS BESIDE THEM, OR FILL THEM IN ON A CHART.

NO MATTER HOW YOU ORGANIZE YOUR SUPPORT, YOU MUST ENSURE THAT YOU PUT THINGS TOGETHER WITH SIMILAR THINGS.

THUFFERING THUCKITASH THESIS

TOPIC + SUPPORT + ORGANIZATION + THESIS = ESSAY

A THESIS IS SIMPLY

- **A FLOWCHART IN SENTENCE FORM**
- **THE ORDER OF THE CATEGORIES YOU WILL DISCUSSING**
- **HOW YOU WILL BE ANSWERING THE TOPIC**

WHEN YOU WRITE AN ESSAY YOU ARE ANSWERING THE QUESTION(S) ASKED BY THE TOPIC. YOUR THESIS PROVIDES A HINT OF THE THINGS OR CATEGORIES YOU WILL BE DISCUSSING.

YOUR THESIS ALSO INDICATES THE ORDER OF WHAT YOU WILL BE DISCUSSING.

TOPIC: OUTLINE THE CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II

CATEGORIES: GERMAN RESENTMENT TO THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES, LAGGING GERMAN ECONOMY, RISE OF COMMUNISM, ENGLISH EMPIRICISM, GERMAN UNITY

Thesis: The second world war was caused by several related events in European history prior to 1930. The lagging German economy, combined with a quest for German Unity and a resentment of the Treaty of Versaille provided a foundation for the Adolf Hitler's rise to power and eventual dictatorship. These factors were further enhanced by the rise of Communism and English Empiricism in the rest of Europe and Asia.

You choose which categories are the most important and then organize them in sentence form as a blueprint or guide for your reader.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

TOPIC + SUPPORT + ORGANIZATION + THESIS = ESSAY

NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR TOPIC, HAVE GATHERED YOUR SUPPORT, ORGANIZED YOUR CATEGORIES, AND MAPPED YOUR THESIS, THEN IT'S TIME TO WRITE THE ESSAY.

ESSAYS ARE A REFINING PROCESS. YOU WRITE SEVERAL DRAFTS (USUALLY 2 IS GOOD).

YOU ALWAYS BEGIN WITH AN INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH. THIS INTRODUCES THE TOPIC AND INCLUDES YOUR THESIS.

EACH SUCCESSIVE PARAGRAPH OR SECTION DEALS WITH THE CATEGORIES FROM YOUR THESIS IN THE ORDER THAT YOU HAVE LISTED THEM IN YOUR INTRODUCTION.

YOUR FINAL PARAGRAPH IS YOUR CONCLUSION. IN THIS PARAGRAPH YOU SUM UP THE POINTS YOU'VE MADE, REPHRASE OR PARAPHRASE YOUR THESIS AND END, OR CONCLUDE YOUR ESSAY WITH A FINAL STATEMENT.

PROOFING MAKES PERFECT

TOPIC + SUPPORT + ORGANIZATION + THESIS = ESSAY

YOU'VE WRITTEN YOUR ESSAY, BUT YOU'RE NOT DONE YET. YOU NEED TO PROOF YOUR WORK FOR SPELLING AND MISUSAGE PROBLEMS, MECHANICS (PUNCTUATION), GRAMMAR, AND AESTHETICS.

THE BEST WAY TO CATCH MOST PROBLEMS IS TO

- **READ YOUR ESSAY ALOUD TO A FRIEND**
- **HAVE A FRIEND READ YOUR ESSAY TO YOU**

WHEN SOMETHING IS READ ALOUD IT IS EASIER TO HEAR THE ERRORS AND PROBLEMS WITH THE ESSAY.

USE THE PROOFREADING CHECKLIST TO HELP YOU LOOK OVER YOUR ESSAY TOO.

FOR A REALLY GOOD ESSAY YOU SHOULD REWRITE THE ESSAY AND PROOF IT ONCE MORE BEFORE MAKING A FINAL VERSION OF YOUR ESSAY.

WRITING GOOD ORWELL

GEORGE ORWELL'S ESSAY ON STYLE AND LANGUAGE, CALLED "POLITICS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE," (SEE ORWELL'S *SELECTED ESSAYS*), REVEALS THE RULES BY WHICH HE WROTE HIS BOOKS, INCLUDING *ANIMAL FARM* AND *NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR*.

- ◆ Never use a metaphor, simile or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
- ◆ Never use a long word where a short one will do.
- ◆ If it is possible to cut out a word, always cut it out
- ◆ Never use the passive where you can use the active verb.
- ◆ Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
- ◆ Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

IN SHORT, ORWELL WANTED TO WRITE PROSE SO CLEAR AND SIMPLE THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO USE IT TO TELL LIES; SO PRECISE THAT AN INSINCERITY AND ILLOGICAL THINKING WOULD STAND OUT AND BE IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS.

AESTHETICS

- Give it a title
- Don't use the prompt as the first sentence: Equality is very important....
- Develop consistent characters
- Avoid use of conventional 5 paragraph essay
- Be descriptive but not over-descriptive
- Avoid profanity and vulgarity
- Make sure it's easy to read
- Try to take an interesting perspective if you are dealing with an issue
- Try to use poetic devices and figurative language (metaphor, simile, etc)
- Try to avoid using your first idea
- Avoid wishy-washy phrasing (I think..., Almost everyone..., Sometimes people...)

GRAMMATICAL/MECHANICAL

- Multiparagraph
- Spelling
- Varied use of language and diction
- Consistent tense (past, present, etc)
- Proper use of poetic devices and figurative language
- Don't misquote
- Parallelism and balancing
- Proofread your paper and make corrections
- Plan out your essay and the points you wish to deal with
- Maintain point of view (First, Third, or Omniscient)
- Don't overwrite your idea
- Avoid common sayings and cliches
- Avoid common speech and familiarity in your writing

ESSAY ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION
THIS PARAGRAPH INTRODUCES WHAT YOU WILL BE COVERING ALONG WITH THE THESIS OF THE ESSAY. THE THESIS EXPRESSES WHAT YOU WILL BE PROVING AND IN WHAT ORDER.

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH
THIS PARAGRAPH PRESENT ANY OF THE ISSUES YOU WILL BE COVERING IN YOUR ESSAY AND IS IN THE ORDER THAT THEY ARE LAYED OUT IN YOUR THESIS. THIS IS OFTEN CALLED THE BODY & YOU CAN HAVE AS MANY OF THESE PARAGRAPHS AS ARE NECESSARY

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH

CONCLUSION
CONCLUDES & SUMMARIZES YOUR THESIS AND THE SUPPORT PARAGRAPH POINTS

ESSAY ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH

SUPPORT PARAGRAPH

CONCLUSION

PARAGRAPH ORGANIZATION

TOPIC STATEMENT
THIS OPENING SENTENCE OF YOUR PARAGRAPH EXPRESSES WHAT WILL BE COVERED IN THE PARAGRAPH. PRESENT THE TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED. I.E. BOTH STORIES TAKE PLACE DURING THE 1950'S

OUTLINE
THIS SECTION OUTLINES WHAT POINTS YOU WILL BE COVERING AND THE ORDER IN WHICH YOU WILL DEAL WITH THEM. I.E. GENTLEMEN, YOUR VERDICT AND THE FIRING SQUAD EACH HAVE SEVERAL THINGS THAT PROVE THEY ARE SET IN THE 1950

SUPPORTING IDEA
PROVIDES SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR A POINT IN YOUR OUTLINE

SUPPORTING IDEA
PROVIDES SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR A POINT IN YOUR OUTLINE

SUPPORTING IDEA
PROVIDES SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR A POINT IN YOUR OUTLINE

CONCLUSION
CONCLUDES & SUMMARIZES YOUR TOPIC AND ITS PROOF AS LISTED IN YOUR SUPPORT POINTS

PARAGRAPH ORGANIZATION

