

WRITING AN ESSAY

WORKSHEET 1: TYPES OF ESSAY

As we saw in the lesson, essays are all around us. The four main types listed are

- (1) Expository essays - they explain or describe a topic.
- (2) Argumentative essays - they try to persuade the reader of something.
- (3) Personal essays - they try to share a significant experience.
- (4) Literary essays - they discuss books, plays and films.

Let's get some practice now.

ACTIVITY 1

In groups (at least four, *one for each type*), work up notes about your particular type of essay. For your type of essay, you must (a) choose one topic or subject from those listed, and (b) write brief notes to act as the framework for the essay.

- (1) Expository essay: Choose one of these topics: Global warming; The dangers of bullying; Why people love Harry Potter; The importance of the internet.
- (2) Argumentative essay: Choose one of these topics: Corporal punishment is bad for children; Single sex schools are best for everyone; Playing sport every week is good for you; Technology has made us lazy.
- (3) Personal essays: Choose one of these topics: Fun and danger: a trip overseas that was both exciting and scary; The day I nearly died; What we can learn from our grandparents; The importance of love and family.
- (4) Literary essay: Choose one of these topics: My favourite book; The best film in the last three years; A book that has changed my life; What we can learn from fairy tales.

ACTIVITY 2

- (1) Now, individually, take the notes from your group and build them up into an essay plan. Create a series of topic sentences - one for each of the paragraphs that would take you through the subject.
- (2) Now it's time to write the essay in full. Write a draft of the essay and then go over it carefully to remove any mistakes or errors.
- (3) Find a time to read the essay to the class - maybe one sample per topic.