



LEARNING SITUATION

Writing an efficient essay in English.

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ANG-5105-1

ESSAY WRITING

THE COMPANY MAN

WHAT IS AN ESSAY

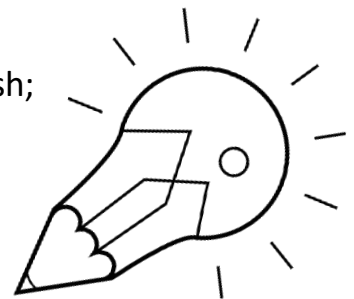


An essay is an **extensive and formal** piece of writing.
It can be:

- Narrative;
- Descriptive;
- Argumentative / Persuasive;
- Analytical;
- Etc.

In this learning situation, you will:

- Read and listen to texts pertaining to essay writing;
- Learn some tips on how to improve your writing skills in English;
- Read a narrative essay and answer some questions;
- Write short paragraphs;
- Write your own essay.



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Task 1 Writing Short Essay Paragraphs

What you have learned in ANG-5103 should come in handy here. Before we dig deeper into the essay writing process, we strongly recommend that you review these two documents.

- ANG-5103_guideexplicite_eleve
- Persuasive Writing Toolkit

What do these letters stand for? Explain in your words.



SOME QUICK DEFINITIONS. SOME QUICK PRACTICES.

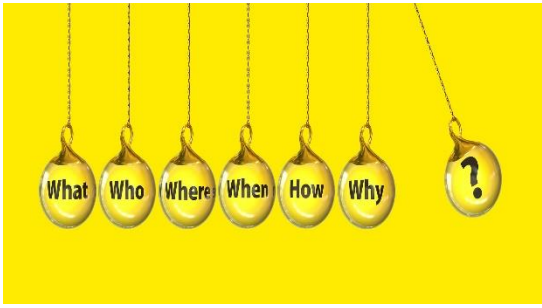
You will explore a few “genres” of essays. For each genre, you will be asked to write a short paragraph using the tips given to you for each.



Read and fill in the chart below. Then, go see your teacher and discuss your paragraph using this chart and the evaluation grid for the course.

I was creative! I made an effort to move the reader.	
I used clear and concise vocabulary. I used new words, synonyms.	
My writing purpose was clear.	
I organize the story in a logical, effective way.	
I used the appropriate grammar (verb tenses, pronouns, adjectives, etc.)	
I used creative syntactical sentences.	
I did my best! It's true!	

Teacher's comments



The Descriptive Essay

What is it?

You can describe an image, a feeling, a person, a place, etc.

Tips:

Brainstorm your subject before you write

Use very precise and specific words (why choose “horse” when you can use “stallion”),

Use your senses (look, smell, taste, sound, feel)

Leave a clear impression to the reader.



Write a short paragraph (around 100 words) in which you will describe a person, a place, an object, etc. Make sure you use the tips. You can plan your writing beforehand.

[illegible]



Read and fill in the chart below. Then, go see your teacher and discuss your paragraph using this chart and the evaluation grid for the course.

I brainstormed before I wrote my descriptions. I thought of all the vocabulary, the ideas, the adjectives surrounding the described item or subject.	
I used very precise and the exact vocabulary related to the subject.	
I integrated a few senses.	
I think I left a clear impression to my reader!	
I used the appropriate grammar (verb tenses, pronouns, adjectives, etc.)	
I used creative syntactical sentences.	
I did my best! It's true!	

Teacher's comments



The Argumentative / Persuasive Essay

What is it?

You can investigate a topic; collect, generate, and evaluate evidence; and establish a position on the topic in a concise manner.

Tips:

Have a clear and concise thesis

Define your transitions between ideas (transitional words, etc)

Use well-structure body paragraphs (one idea per paragraph including a support idea)

For this one, it's a lot like the OREO method.

[illegible]



Read and fill in the chart below. Then, go see your teacher and discuss your paragraph using this chart and the evaluation grid for the course.

I have a clear thesis.	
I used very precise and the exact vocabulary related to the subject.	
I use clear transitional words to link my ideas.	
I use well-defined body paragraphs.	
I used the appropriate grammar (verb tenses, pronouns, adjectives, etc.)	
I used appropriate syntactical sentences.	
I did my best! It's true!	

Teacher's comments

Task 2 The Company Man. Essay Reading Comprehension

Read the following narrative essay.

THE COMPANY MAN

by Ellen Goodman

He worked himself to death, finally and precisely, at 3:00 A.M. Sunday morning.

The obituary didn't say that, of course. It said that he died of a coronary thrombosis--I think that was it--but everyone among his friends and acquaintances knew it instantly. He was a perfect Type A, a workaholic, a classic, they said to each other and shook their heads--and thought for five or ten minutes about the way they lived.

This man who worked himself to death finally and precisely at 3:00 A.M. Sunday morning--on his day off--was fifty-one years old and a vice-president. He was, however, one of six vice-presidents, and one of three who might conceivably--if the president died or retired soon enough--have moved to the top spot. Phil knew that.

He worked six days a week, five of them until eight or nine at night, during a time when his own company had begun the four-day week for everyone but the executives. He worked like the Important People. He had no outside "extracurricular interests," unless, of course, you think about a monthly golf game that way. To Phil, it was work. He always ate egg salad sandwiches at his desk. He was, of course, overweight, by 20 or 25 pounds. He thought it was okay, though, because he didn't smoke.

On Saturdays, Phil-wore a-sports-jacket- to the office instead of a suit, because it was the weekend.

He had a lot of people working for him, maybe sixty, and most of them liked him most of the time. Three of them will be seriously considered for his job. The obituary didn't mention that.

But it did list his "survivors" quite accurately. He is survived by his wife, Helen, forty-eight years old, a good woman of no particular marketable skills, who worked in an office before marrying and mothering. She had, according to her daughter, given up trying to compete with his work

years ago, when the children were small. A company friend said, "I know how much you will miss him." And she answered, "I already have."

"Missing him all these years," she must have given up part of herself which had cared too much for the man. She would be "well taken care of."

His "dearly beloved" eldest of the "dearly beloved" children is a hard-working executive in a manufacturing firm down South. In the day and a half before the funeral, he went around the neighborhood researching his father, asking the neighbors what he was like. They were embarrassed.

His second child is a girl, who is twenty-four and newly married. She lives near her mother and they are close, but whenever she was alone with her father, in a car driving somewhere, they had nothing to say to each other.

The youngest is twenty, a boy, a high-school graduate who has spent the last couple of years, like a lot of his friends, doing enough odd jobs to stay in grass and food. He was the one who tried to grab at his father, and "tried to mean" enough to him to keep the man at home. He was his father's favorite. Over the last two years, Phil stayed up nights worrying about the boy.

The boy once said, "My father and I only board here."

At the funeral, the sixty-year-old company president told the forty-eight-year-old widow that the fifty-one-year-old deceased had meant much to the company and would be missed and would be hard to replace. The widow didn't look him in the eye. She was afraid he would read her bitterness and, after all, she would need him to straighten out the finances--the stock options and all that.

Phil was overweight and nervous and worked too hard. If he wasn't at the office he was worried about it. Phil was a Type A, heart-attack natural. You could have picked him out in a minute from a lineup.

So when he finally worked himself to death, at precisely 3:00 A.M. Sunday morning, no one was really surprised.

By 5:00 P.M. the afternoon of the funeral, the company president had begun, discreetly of course, with care and taste, to make inquiries about his replacement. One of three men. He asked around: "Who's been working the hardest?"

Answer the following questions related to The Company Man.

How is this essay a narrative essay? Explain.

What do you think about Phil’s way of life?

A company friend said, "I know how much you will miss him." And she answered, "I already have."
What do you think the wife meant?

What did you think about this narrative essay? Did you enjoy it? Explain.

Task 3

Steps to Write an Effective Essay

Use the Internet page below to learn more on these steps.
You can use the chart below to gather information on each step.



1. Pick a topic	
2. Prepare an outline (or diagram) of your ideas	
3. Write your thesis statement	
4. Write the body	
5. Write the introduction	
6. Write the conclusion	
7. Add the finishing touches	

Task 4 How to Proofread Your Essay



Adding a finishing touch to your essay is the step that might determine whether the reader will enjoy your text or not. Something you can do to add a little extra touch to it is by playing with sentences to make them more complex, but also by editing your grammar!

Review the content
and the structure

Did you respect the writing task?



Narrative? Descriptive? Argumentative?

Scan the text, ask yourself these questions.



Is the title catchy enough?

Are the paragraphs well divided?

Did I include transitional words?



Review the
Language

Check these out!



Precise vocabulary

Pronouns

Spelling

Verb tenses (the appropriate ones)

Syntax (simple and complex sentences)

Task 5**Write an Essay**

This is it! You've covered all your bases by practicing small paragraphs and exploring a few aspects on essay writing. Let's see how well you do now by writing a longer essay.

For this task, you will write an essay of around 250 words. You can use the graphic on page X to guide you through the writing.

The subject of this essay is:

What is it like to be a **“company woman”** in these days and age?

Plan your writing

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER

Did you...

Pick a topic?

Plan your writing (linear or mind map)?

Write the main statement of your essay?

Write down the main ideas, organize them?

Write the introduction and the conclusion?

Use your creativity! Add your final touch! (specific vocabulary, complex sentences, etc.)?

Proofread the text?