

Space for academic creativity, or how to write an essay

Step 1: Understand that everything is possible in the essay

If there is little space for creativity and vivid experimentation in a rigorous academic environment, this is an essay. Subjective impressions, curly metaphors, quirky associations, quotes from favorite songs, and even a story on behalf of a favorite character from a TV series or a book - use anything you want. Incorporate in your text what they have not been able to say during "format" lectures and seminars for so long, that they have not expressed through limited scientific categories.

Step 2: Don't forget about standards

However, the essay also has its own structure. Most creative teachers have little or no requirements for it. However, in such cases, the basic principles of common sense are already taking effect. So, here's what to keep in mind:

The essay is a demonstration of your view of the world, embodied in writing. If you do not want to get the label "person who has a problem with logic", you should follow the traditional way of composing text (introduction, main part, ending). There are, of course, possible exceptions: all of a sudden you decide to use the technique of hypertext or want to illustrate the textual manifestations of postmodernism.

Therefore, we choose the style and content of the essay, depending on the specific task, topic and goals. Usually, the essay is used as a form of control in the humanities to test for non-standard and analytical thinking. However, it would obviously be inappropriate when a physicist, instead of using exact theses, begins to use philosophical reflections, or, conversely, an analyst will focus only on the communication of some fact without its interpretation.

To use plagiarism is not to respect yourself. Don't you have your own point of view? Moreover, compared to the course or abstract, the volume of essays is not so critical as to resort to copy-paste. It is not easy to refer to any source, but it is necessary. Linking thought leaders will automatically add weight to your essay.

However, designate each such phrase as a citation, and list all sources used in the literature:

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Step 3: Gather your thoughts

At this point you can wait for inspiration for a long time, and you can use the technique of "brainstorming". A blank sheet will only remain so at the beginning of your work. You should not be afraid of this.

Carefully read the topic suggested for the essay. What associations, comparisons, facts do you immediately think of? Write them down in their original form, through a comma or in a column. Set aside the document. If there is enough time, you can go to the insight method (from insight, sudden understanding): forget about the essay for a few days and continue reading the literature or watching videos related to the topic. Our brain works in such a way that after a while you suddenly understand and formulate the ideas you need for the essay.

If the teacher recommended a specific literature, find it. If not - take a look at previous work on the topic yourself. Save the quote you liked in the started document, be sure to include the author and source. Separate the source separately in the literature list.

Reread your thoughts and selected quotes. You may find that some quotes organically complement and illustrate your point of view. It's time to combine them. Think of relevant examples or, if the format and subject matter of the essay allow it, look for statistics, analyze them. So fill your essay step by step until you realize that there is enough material. Now you can write the introductory part (the presentation, what will be discussed next) and draw conclusions.

Make the latest revision of the essay better after a while, when the text and your brain "cool down" a little. Notice whether the logical structure is preserved, whether the arguments match the given thesis, or whether there are no errors. Think: If you were a teacher, would you be interested in reading this material?

Step 4: Create a highlight

True recognition is when your text is stored for years and displayed to other students as an example. It is essential that among thousands of essays the teacher will remember yours. For this, in fact, and is designated "sparkle".

If the format allows, an interesting design can be a feature. Submit dialogue, letter, diary, autobiography, plays - the limits are only set by your creativity. Come up with an unexpected title, "loud" epigraphs, illustrations, you can even create infographics for more advanced teachers. Offering non-standard ideas and brilliant content is guaranteed to pay attention to your essay.

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