

Expository Writing

An excellent expository essay . . .

- ✓ includes an introduction that presents the subject and makes the reader want to keep reading
- ✓ has a clear thesis statement that previews the content of the essay
- ✓ provides relevant and sufficient supporting details, such as facts, statistics, anecdotes, and quotations
- ✓ includes well-organized paragraphs that present supporting details in a logical order
- ✓ includes transitions such as *similarly*, *as a result*, and *for example*
- ✓ concludes effectively by briefly restating the main points and leaving the reader with a final thought

An average expository essay . . .

- ✓ includes an introduction that names the subject but is not especially interesting or original
- ✓ has a thesis statement that does not clearly express the main idea of the essay
- ✓ provides supporting details in the body paragraphs but some are irrelevant or insufficient
- ✓ uses few transitions and presents details in an unclear order
- ✓ concludes by repeating parts from the introduction

A poor expository essay . . .

- ✓ has no thesis statement
- ✓ includes few supporting details
- ✓ expresses ideas in a vague, disorganized way
- ✓ lacks a conclusion