

Writing an essay

How to write a perfect essay

1. Select or define your topic;
2. Identify the major main idea;
3. Recognize the five principal parts of an essay;
4. Write good thesis statement;
5. Write a topic sentence expressing the minor main idea of each paragraph;
6. Write supporting details that confirm each topic sentence of each paragraph;
7. Have a good conclusion;
8. Concentrate on the appropriate vocabulary (formal, but not colloquial language);
9. Eliminate verbosity and redundancy.

Verbosity

Verbosity is the use of many words. Verbosity might be considered when a writer has really nothing to say.

For instance, the expression “in a joyful mood” could be said in one word “joyfully”.

Without a lot of excess words, writers’ ideas will be more clearly expressed, and readers will have no problem understanding them.

Do not fail to brainstorm, do it sufficiently, think of enough supporting details. Don’t add a lot of extra words just to fill up the space!

Examples:

INCORRECT: *Kate acted in a thoughtful manner.*

CORRECT: *Kate acted thoughtfully.*

INCORRECT: *The rescue workers freed the victims in a quick manner and with ease.*

CORRECT: *The rescue workers freed the victims quickly and easily.*

! No excessive (exceeding) vocabulary! !No verbosity!

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Redundancy

Redundancy is the use of many words having the same meaning instead of one that provides the best explanation.

INCORRECT: *The bookcase was heavier in weight, darker in color, and more expensive in price than the one for which Gina was looking.*

CORRECT: *The bookcase was heavier, darker, and more expensive than what Gina wanted.*

INCORRECT: *The place where you should buy your clothes is Macy's. (12 words)*

CORRECT: *You should shop at Macy's. (6 words)*

Avoid the following redundant expressions:

Redundant	Correct
<i>Surrounded on all sides</i>	<i>Surrounded by</i>
<i>The reason is because</i>	<i>Because</i>
<i>Coerce by force</i>	<i>Coerce; force; compel</i>
<i>New innovations</i>	<i>Innovations; new ideas</i>
<i>Repeat again</i>	<i>Repeat</i>
<i>Two twins</i>	<i>Twins</i>
<i>Join together</i>	<i>Join</i>
<i>The time when</i>	<i>When</i>
<i>Advance forward</i>	<i>Advance; move forward</i>
<i>Return back</i>	<i>Return</i>
<i>These two both</i>	<i>Both; the too</i>
<i>Sufficient enough</i>	<i>Sufficient; enough</i>
<i>And... also</i>	<i>And; also</i>
<i>At the place where</i>	<i>Where; at</i>
<i>Retreat back</i>	<i>Retreat; go back</i>
<i>Someone he</i>	<i>Someone; he</i>
<i>Separate apart</i>	<i>Separate</i>
<i>Each and every</i>	<i>Each, every</i>
<i>Many kinds of</i>	<i>Many</i>
<i>Truly and really</i>	<i>Certainly; truly</i>
<i>In the whole wide world</i>	<i>In the world</i>
<i>The reason why</i>	<i>The reason</i>
<i>Because of the fact that</i>	<i>Because</i>
<i>Savage and wild</i>	<i>Savage; wild</i>

Exercise:

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Read the following essay and, using the list provided, eliminate the underlined verbose and redundant expressions. Then rewrite the revised paragraph.

Friday the Thirteenth

It was Friday and I was looking forward to the weekend the time when I could relax. Despite some gray clouds in the sky, I left my umbrella and raincoat at home. There was a bad accident on the road due to thunderstorm, and that was the reason why I arrived late for work. Consequently, my boss he was very angry and disappointed because I was not at the place where the meeting was to give my report at 8:30. When I put my report in the copy machine, nothing happened, so I repeated the process again, and as a result of malfunction, it shredded my report instead of printing it. Since the only other copy was at home, I told my boss that I would return back home to get it and have it on his desk in sufficient enough time to submit it to the committee. I had no umbrella and consequently got wet advancing forward as fast as I could to the parking lot to the place where I had parked my car. I decided to change clothes when I returned back home. Then as I was hurrying, I bumped the corner of the coffee table and got a run in my stocking. Because my report arrived late, the committee postponed its decision on the project. So another Friday the thirteenth had passes, and I became one of its victims of bad luck. I decided to retreat back home and try to forget everything that happened and also the shredded report.

Find the main idea of an essay and emphasize all supporting details that prove the main idea.

Highlight the topic sentence. And finally, reveal the conclusion.