



Learn English: Politics and Comparative Forms

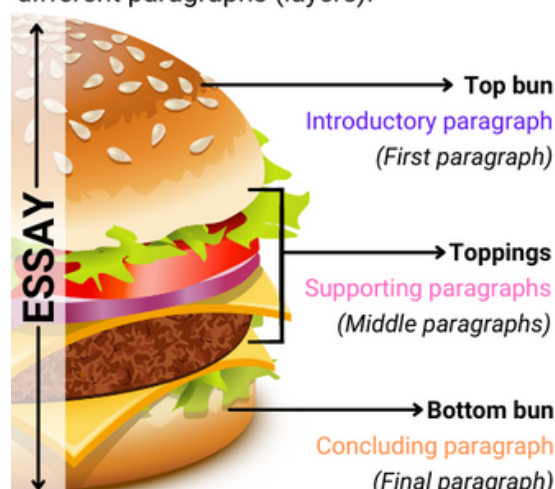
Student Writing Practice

Write a persuasive essay about why you believe it is or isn't important to vote. Here are some questions to help you plan your essay: Do you vote? Why or why not? Do you believe voting makes a difference - why or why not? What other factors influence your opinion on voting?

- Your essay should have three to four paragraphs of six to eight lines each.
- Begin by forming your own opinion, and then attempt to persuade or convince the reader of your opinion. You may do some research to offer facts, examples or expert opinions to further persuade the reader.
- Use various degrees of comparison, as...as, and absolute adjectives in your writing.

The Hamburger Effect

An essay (a hamburger) is divided into different paragraphs (layers).



Use the following example to guide the format and structure of your persuasive essay.

How often do we really get what we want? Almost never! We can discuss politics as much as we like, but nothing ever changes. That is why I believe that voting is a complete waste of time - it's as pointless as an unsharpened pencil.

I consider myself a dutiful citizen and have voted every year since I was eligible. In my country, that is when one turns 18 years old. Not once has my vote made the least bit of difference. My chosen political party has as little support as those waist belts that are designed to keep your stomach in and make you look skinnier. It seems our politicians know as little as design 'experts.'

According to Read Me Weekly, the polls are "never accurate" because the tellers who count the votes are open to bribery and often "miscalculate" or "fudge" the numbers. Why should people stand in a long queue to cast a ballot when their votes aren't counted correctly? Minority groups are more likely to be affected by inaccurate ballot counting because these groups are represented by fewer people at the polls.

Don't get me wrong... political discussions are essential, but in a country where democracy is dead, and corruption is on the rise, voting is a waste of time - just like buying those waist belts!

Introductory Paragraph

- Formulate and clearly state your opinion.
- Starting with a question grabs the reader's attention.

Supporting Paragraph One

- Offer a fact and your opinion.
- Note that the tone (in this text, it is sarcastic and frustrated) should be maintained throughout your writing.

Supporting Paragraph Two

- Offer research/quotes and your opinion.

Concluding Paragraph

- Summarize your points and link conclusion to the introduction.



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Student Writing Practice

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. At the very top, there is a solid purple horizontal band. Below this band, the page is filled with evenly spaced, thin grey horizontal lines. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving a small margin at the bottom. There are no margins on the sides.



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Writing Tips

Essay writing can be divided into four different categories.

1. Narrative
2. Descriptive
3. Argumentative
4. Expository

Each type of essay has a specific purpose, structure, writing style, and technique.

Narrative Essay

This is story writing that gives an account of an event. It may be fiction or non-fiction and often includes a plot (storyline), characters, and dialogue.

- An example of this type of essay is a college admissions essay.
- A writing prompt for a narrative essay: Write about an extracurricular activity or club you participated in during high school.

Descriptive Essay

This uses words to describe objects, people, places, experiences, emotions, situations, or events. It relies on the use of detail, descriptive vocabulary, and creativity.

- An example of this type of essay is a traditional five-paragraph essay.
- A writing prompt for a descriptive essay: Describe the appearance and character of your fifth-grade teacher.

Argumentative Essay

This begins with the writer forming an opinion on a topic and then attempting to convince the reader of their opinion. It requires evidence in the form of research, facts, examples, quotes from experts, and logical reasoning.

- An example of this type of essay is a persuasive essay.
- A writing prompt for an argumentative essay: Workplaces should have a dress code.

Expository Essay

This offers a balanced discussion on a topic while avoiding personal opinions. It requires the writer to take an objective approach and provide an informative explanation of the topic, often supported by research.

- An example of this type of essay is a compare/contrast essay.
- A writing prompt for an expository essay: Compare and contrast two cities of your choice.