

## Expository Essay Outline

**Directions:** Use this outline as a “road map” to write your essay. If you need more examples or sentence starters, use page 2 to help you!

### I. Introduction/Claim (3 points)

- A. Start with a hook or attention getting sentence.
- B. Briefly summarize the texts
- C. State your thesis. Your thesis is the sentence that outlines what your essay is going to be about. Make sure you are restating the prompt.

### II. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support (3 points)

Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.

- **Example: The character \_\_\_\_\_ undergoes a change caused by \_\_\_\_\_.**
- B. Include text evidence that supports your reason.
    - **Example: The author shows that the character’s change is caused by \_\_\_\_\_ because in paragraph two it states \_\_\_\_\_**
  - C. Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proves your thesis.
    - **Example: This proves that the character’s changes were caused by \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.**

### III. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points)

A. Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.

- **Example: The character \_\_\_\_\_ undergoes a change caused by \_\_\_\_\_.**
- B. Include text evidence that supports your reason.
    - **Example: The author shows that the character’s change is caused by \_\_\_\_\_ because in paragraph two it states \_\_\_\_\_**
  - C. Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proves your thesis.
    - **Example: This proves that the character’s changes were caused by \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.**

### IV. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points)

A. Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.

- **Example: The character \_\_\_\_\_ undergoes a change caused by \_\_\_\_\_.**
- B. Include text evidence that supports your reason.
    - **Example: The author shows that the character’s change is caused by \_\_\_\_\_ because in paragraph two it states \_\_\_\_\_**
  - C. Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proves your thesis.
    - **Example: This proves that the character’s changes were caused by \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.**

### V. Conclusion (One paragraph) (1 points)

Restate your claim and summarize your reasoning.

- **Example: In conclusion, the text shows that videogames are harmful by pointing out that \_\_\_\_\_**

☆ **Your essay is incomplete and cannot be graded without a thesis/claim and a counterclaim.**

# Additional Examples and Sentence Starters

## I. INTRO-PARAGRAPH

<p><b>A. HOOK CHOOSE ONE</b></p> <p><b>B. EXPLAIN the ISSUE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the issue.</li> <li>• Introduce the issue that your essay will be about before you state your thesis.</li> <li>• Why is it an issue?</li> <li>• Why is it a problem or controversy?</li> </ul> <p><b>C. CLAIM or THESIS</b> Parts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject: What is the subject you are arguing about.</li> <li>• What's the argument?: What are you arguing about that subject? Be specific!</li> <li>• 3 points: 3 points of support for your argument</li> </ul>	<p><b>Types of Hook Sentences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grab the reader's attention with a thought</li> <li>• Rhetorical Question– a question with an answer.</li> <li>• Anecdote– a short story.</li> <li>• Quotation– a line from a source.</li> </ul> <p><b>Explain sentence starter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The issue of _____ is a complex one. It's about....</li> <li>• The controversy is: _____</li> </ul> <p><b>Claim Sentence Starters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I observed _____ when _____.</li> <li>• I compared _____ and _____.</li> <li>• I noticed _____, when _____.</li> </ul>
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## II. Body paragraph(s) S.E.E. (2-3) III. Paragraphs Depending on the number of Selections!

<p><b>A. S... STATEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TTQAA</li> <li>• <b>TOPIC SENTENCES</b></li> </ul> <p>(INTRODUCES EVIDENCE = SUPPORTS CLAIM)</p> <p><b>B. E... EVIDENCE (Data)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PICK AND USE AN EVIDENCE SENTENCE STARTER.</li> <li>• WRITE A QUOTE from the <u>text is relevant &amp; supports your CLAIM.</u> PUT QUOTES AROUND YOUR QUOTE</li> <li>• YOU MUST HAVE QUOTATION MARKS “...”</li> <li>• TITLE OF THE BOOK BEHIND THE QUOTE</li> <li>• THE PAGE # OR PARAGRAPH</li> </ul> <p><b>C. E... EXPLAIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HOW DOES THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTS THE CLAIM?</li> <li>• WARRANT/REASON</li> </ul>	<p><b>Topic Sentence Starters</b></p> <p><b>Turn the question or Prompt around (Restate) and answer it.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reason why (your main claim) is true because (state your argument).</li> <li>• (state your argument) demonstrates that (main claim) is true.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evidence Sentence Starters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the text...</li> <li>• The author wrote...</li> <li>• In the ____, paragraph the author stated....</li> <li>• On page ____, the author stated...</li> <li>• As the author mentioned on page____</li> </ul> <p><b>Explain/Warrant/Reason Sentence Starters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This evidence illustrates ____, because...</li> <li>• This conveys</li> <li>• As a rule</li> <li>• This suggests</li> </ul>
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## IV. Counter-Claim Paragraph : Argument Essays must have a Counter-Claim!!!

<p><b>A. COUNTER-CLAIM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PICK AND USE A COUNTER-CLAIM SENTENCE STARTER.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Explain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why the Counter-claim argument is weak.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Counter-claim Sentence Starters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who disagree may claim that “State the opposing side's opposite claim”...</li> <li>• Critics may claim that “state the opposing side's claim”...</li> </ul> <p><b>Explain Counter-claim Sentence Starters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This argument is weak because...</li> <li>• On the contrary.....</li> </ul>
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## V. Conclusion

<p>A. Restatement of the Claim (Different words)</p> <p>B. A summary of the evidence provided</p> <p>C. Leave the reader with something to think about, a question, or something to do.</p>	<p><b>Conclusion Sentence Starters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In summary...</li> <li>• In brief...</li> <li>• To conclude...</li> <li>• It has been shown that...</li> <li>• To review...</li> <li>• To summarize</li> </ul>
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## Expository Essay Rubric

**Directions:** Edit your essay by following the directions below. Make sure that you have all parts of each component. Check it off of your list after you have highlighted, underlined, or circled it in your essay.

### I. Introduction/Claim (One paragraph) (3 points) Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ Underline your hook Start with a hook or attention getting sentence.
- \_\_\_ Circle your text summary: Briefly summarize the texts.
- \_\_\_ Highlight your claim: State your thesis. Make sure you are restating the prompt. ☆

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### II. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points) Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ A) Highlight your Topic sentence: Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.

- **Example: The character \_\_\_\_\_ undergoes a change caused by \_\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_ B) Circle your text evidence Include text evidence that supports your reason.

- **Example: The author shows that video games are harmful because in paragraph 2 it states \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ C) Underline your explanation: Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proved your claim.

- **Example: The author uses this evidence to show how/that \_\_\_\_\_.**

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### III. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points) Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ A) Highlight your Topic sentence: Include a topic sentence that restates your claim and your reason.

- **Example: Video games are harmful because \_\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_ B) Circle your text evidence: Include text evidence that supports your reason.

- **Example: The author shows that video games are harmful because in paragraph 2 it states \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ C) Underline your explanation: Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proved your claim.

- **Example: The author uses this evidence to show how/that \_\_\_\_\_.**

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### IV. Body Paragraph: Evidence/Support/Warrant (3 points) Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ A) Include a topic sentence that restates your thesis topic for this paragraph and your reason.

- **Example: The character \_\_\_\_\_ undergoes a change caused by \_\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_ B) Include text evidence that supports your reason.

- **Example: The author shows that the character's change is caused by \_\_\_\_\_ because in paragraph two it states \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_ C) Include an explanation (warrant) that shows how your text evidence proves your thesis.

- **Example: This proves that the character's changes were caused by \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.**

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### IV. Conclusion (One paragraph) (1 points) Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Highlight your conclusion: Restate your claim and summarize your reasoning.

- **Example: In conclusion, the text shows that videogames are harmful by pointing out that \_\_\_\_\_**

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☆ **Your essay is incomplete and cannot be graded without a thesis/claim and a counterclaim.**

## Style and Language

Style and Language includes the correct use of the following:

- Appropriate style and an objective tone established and maintained.
- Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language
- Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose.
- Varied Sentence structure demonstrating language facility.

This essay demonstrated appropriate Style & Language: **Points Earned:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Most of the time (**3 points**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Some of the time (but was inconsistent) (**2 Points**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Rarely (**1 point**)

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## Conventions

### Punctuation:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1) Do I use the end punctuation after all of my sentences?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2) Do I use commas after introductory word groups and transitions?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3) Do I use commas between equal adjectives?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4) Do I punctuate dialogue correctly?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5) Do I use apostrophes to show possessions (a boy's bike)?

### Capitalization

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6) Do I start all my sentences with capital letters?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7) Do I capitalize all proper nouns?

### Spelling

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8) Have I spelled all my words correctly?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 9) Have I double-checked the words my spell-checker may have missed?

### Grammar

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10) Do I use correct forms of verbs (had gone, not had went)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 11) Do my subjects and verbs agree in number?  
\_\_\_\_\_ 12) Do I use the right words (to, too, two)?

This essay demonstrated Conventions: **Points Earned:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Most of the time (**3 points**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Some of the time (but was inconsistent) (**2 Points**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Rarely (**1 point**)

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**Total Points Earned:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 19

19/19= 100%

18/19=95%

17/19=89%

16/19=84%

15/19=79%

14/19= 74%

13/19= 68%

12/19= 63%

11/19= 58%

10/19= 53%