

Essay Helpers

A) TYPES OF ESSAYS

- 1) **narrative**: the purpose of the narrative essay is to tell a story.
- 2) **descriptive**: in a descriptive essay, the purpose is to produce a mood or a dominant impression of a person, place, or object. The writer tries to make the reader see, hear, or feel what the writer saw, heard, or felt.
- 3) **expository**: the purpose of the expository essay is to inform, clarify, define, explain, or analyze.
- 4) **argumentative**: an argumentative essay attempts to convince, bring about an event, or move the reader to action. In an orderly way the writer analyzes a problem, offers a solution, acknowledges opposing solutions, and restates the one given in the essay. The appeal to the reader may be strictly logical or it may involve the reader's emotions.

B) THE FORMAL EXPOSITORY ESSAY

- 1) **INTRODUCTION**: introduces your topic / thesis and catches the reader's interest. With an essay relating to history, set the scene (i.e. time period and persons / countries involved). Perhaps use a rhetorical question.
Note: Remember to have a thesis statement that clearly states what you are trying to prove in your essay.
- 2) **BODY**: provides evidence to support your topic / thesis
- 3) **CONCLUSION**: summarizes your topic / thesis

HELPFUL HINTS:

- for a test essay, **read the essay question very carefully**
- remember to **indent** your paragraphs
- **avoid** the use of **contractions** (i.e. instead of "didn't" use "did not")
- **avoid** the use of the phrase "**a lot of**"
- **avoid** the use of **slang and colloquial expressions**

(i.e. expressions used in everyday informal talk, but not in formal speech or writing eg "they've had it", "it's a cinch")

- **do not say** in your introduction, "In this essay, I am going to tell you about..." Let your essay speak for itself.

- throughout your essay, **avoid the use of "you", use "one" instead.** eg "You need to consider safety when doing an experiment." Rather, "One needs to consider safety when doing an experiment."

- watch out for **run on** sentences

eg The teacher put the question on the blackboard, we all began to write.

This run-on sentence **could be fixed** several different ways: (i.e.)

a) The teacher put the questions on the blackboard. We all began to write.

b) The teacher put the questions on the blackboard, and we all began to write.

c) As soon as the teacher put the questions on the blackboard, we all began to write.

CHECK YOUR SENTENCES BY READING THEM OUT LOUD TO YOURSELF. DO THEY SOUND RIGHT?

- use effective **transitional expressions** between your sentences and paragraphs.

EXAMPLES:

a) Addition: moreover, further, furthermore, besides, and, and then, likewise, also, nor, too, again, in addition, equally important, next, first, second, third, in the first place, in the second place, finally, last.

b) Comparison: similarly, likewise, in like manner.

c) Contrast: but, yet, and yet, however, still, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, even so, notwithstanding, for all that, in contrast to this, at the same time, although this may be true, otherwise, nonetheless.

d) Place: here, beyond, nearby, opposite to, adjacent to, on the opposite side.

e) Purpose: to this end, for this purpose, with this object.

f) Result: hence, therefore, accordingly, consequently, thus, thereupon, as a result, then.

g) Summary, repetition, intensification: in conclusion, to sum up, in brief, on the whole, in sum, in short, as I have said, in other words, that is, to be sure, as has been noted, for example, for instance, in fact, indeed, to tell the truth, in any event.

h) Time: meanwhile, at length, soon, after a few days, in the meantime, afterward, later, now, in the past.

C) PREPARE AN OUTLINE FOR YOUR ESSAY

- an essay is a well organized expression of writing, hence you need a plan before you start to write your essay. There are several different styles of essay outlines, for instance "webbing" is an excellent technique that many students utilize. Below is a point form outline.

SAMPLE ESSAY OUTLINE

Topic: Analyze how the French in Quebec helped to ensure that what would become Canada remained under British control during the 1770s in spite of threats from the United States.

Introduction:

- uncertainty for the colony of Quebec during the 1770s
- War of Independence to the south
- would the French in Quebec support the American Revolution?
- would Britain lose control over Quebec?
- history has shown, **Canada did remain British because it was French (thesis statement)**

Body:

I) Why did the Canadiens not support the American Revolution?

- an opportunity to be liberated from the British
- France supported it
- answer: to a large extent, the Quebec Act

II) Describe the Quebec Act

- protection for French language, Roman Catholic religion, civil laws
- borders enlarged
- control over fur trade went to Quebec City and Montreal merchants

- Que. Governor, Guy Carleton, hoped the French would remain loyal

III) Describe reasons for American Revolution

- Intolerable Acts

i.e. Townshend/Quartering/Stamp/Quebec Acts

IV) American threat to Quebec

- 1775 invasion

- Canadiens defended Que. realizing benefits from the Quebec Act + American rule not an attractive alternative

Conclusion:

- Anglo-Americans did win their war of independence / USA came into being / USA gained the Ohio Valley

- however, Que. (later Canada) remained under British rule through the efforts of the Canadiens (i.e. restating thesis)

D) SAMPLE ESSAY

Note:

Green text: donates a transitional expression

Blue text: emphasizes linking a key idea from one paragraph to another in order to create flow in the essay

"Canada remained British because it was French"

The 1770s was a period of considerable uncertainty for the colony of Quebec which was later to be divided into Upper and Lower Canada. Under British rule, the people of Quebec, most of whom were French, had to consider the dramatic events that were taking place to the south. The War of Independence or the American Revolution saw Anglo-Americans desiring to be free from British rule and to form their own nation. Would such a desire spread to the French in Quebec? Would Britain lose all its colonies in North America? As history has shown, **in a rather ironic way, Canada did remain British because it was French.**

To begin to understand the irony of these events in Canadian history, one must ask the question, why did the French in Quebec, known as les Canadiens, not support the American Revolution? After all, it would have been an opportunity for them to be

liberated from their British conquerors. **Furthermore**, in their homeland of France, King Louis XVI gave military support to the Anglo-Americans to help defeat the British. The answer to this seemingly confusing question, lies to a large extent in the [Quebec Act of 1774](#).

This act provided a number of benefits to the Canadien people. **For example**, they were allowed to retain their language, Roman Catholic religion, and civil laws. **Moreover**, Quebec's borders were enlarged to include the rich fishing and sealing grounds off Labrador as well as the valuable fur trading area of the Ohio Valley. Quebec City and Montreal merchants were also given control over the fur trade. With such concessions being made to the Canadiens, Quebec's Governor, Guy Carleton, hoped that in the event of an [American threat to Quebec](#), the French would remain loyal.

[Such a threat soon did arise](#) as Anglo-Americans responded to what they viewed as a series of "Intolerable Acts" imposed by the British Government. These acts included the Townshend Act which forced them to pay duties on tea, glass, paints, and paper imported from Britain. Anglo-Americans were frustrated that they were being taxed by a Government in which they had no representation. **In addition**, there was the Quartering Act which forced Anglo-Americans to use their homes to provide room and board for British soldiers and the Stamp Act which required stamps to be affixed to legal documents and newspapers to show that a tax had been paid. **As well**, there was the Quebec Act which angered Anglo-Americans for three main reasons. **Firstly**, it blocked the westward expansion of the American colonies into the Ohio Valley. **Secondly**, it gave protection to the Roman Catholic religion, and **finally**, it failed to provide an elected assembly to the Quebec colony.

As a result of these "Intolerable Acts", the American Revolution began. It included an invasion of Quebec in 1775 with the hope by the Americans that the Canadiens would welcome liberation from the British. They were sorely mistaken though, as the Canadiens, remembering the benefits they had achieved through the Quebec Act, defended the colony and ensured that it would remain in British hands. **Indeed**, an American presence in Quebec did not offer the Canadiens an attractive alternative to the British especially considering the American opposition to protection for the Roman Catholic religion. **Hence**, in spite of France's support for the American cause, the Canadiens chose to side with the British.

In the end, the Anglo-Americans did win their war for independence and the United States of America came into being. The Americans even managed to gain control of the much coveted Ohio Valley. **Although** this was a difficult loss to swallow for the people of Quebec, **the colony did remain in existence through the efforts of the Canadiens and ensured a future for Canada under British rule.**