

# HUM 120 EXPOSITORY WRITING

Lecture 02



# What is an Essay?

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- Piece of writing used to argue, analyze and share perspectives on a particular subject matter / topic
- Structurally organized presentation of ideas
- Generally defined as a form of academic writing
- Used in different contexts such as fiction (literature) and non-fiction (journalism)

# Characteristics of Essay

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- **Cohesion:** Logical and verbal flow of sentences & transition words
- **Coherence:** Ideas presented logically and verbally connect with central point
- **Citations:** To avoid plagiarism
- **Facts and Statistics:** To support arguments

# Significance of Essay

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- **Communication Skills:** Reading & Particularly Academic Writing
- **Evaluating Knowledge:** To assess background knowledge of students
- **Develops Critical Thinking:** For sharing perspectives and analyzing a particular topic
- **Develops Research Skills:** By reading and citing relevant sources
- **Continuous Learning:** By incorporating relevant data and arguments in writing

# Structure of an Essay

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Introduction



Body



Conclusion



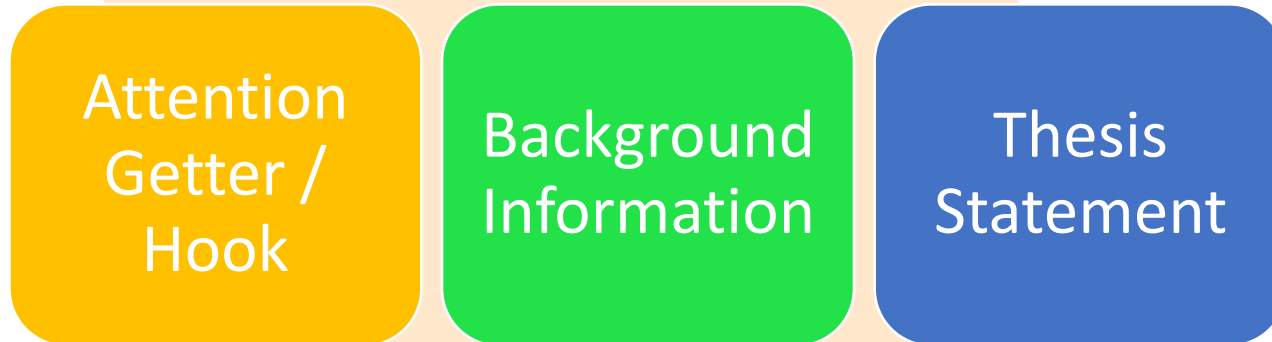
# Introduction

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- First paragraph of the essay
- Begins with an **Attention Getter / hook** such as brief anecdote, surprising fact, question, quotation etc
- It is followed by the **background information** for understanding the subject matter
- Then the introduction has a clear and concise **thesis statement** stating the **purpose** and setting the **direction** of an essay

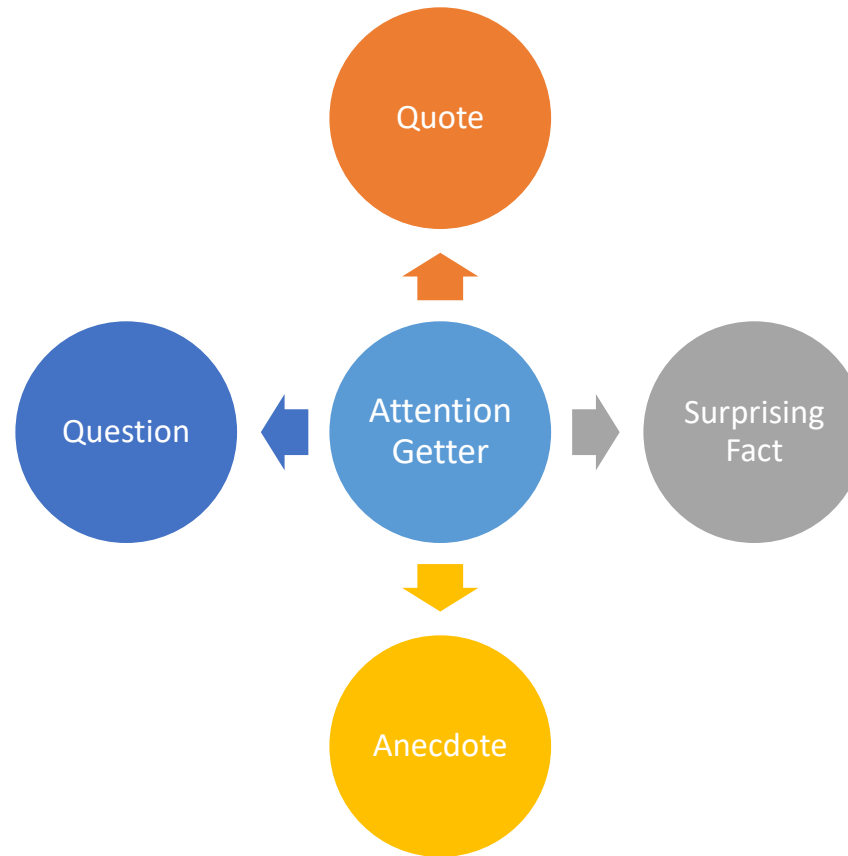
# Introduction

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# Attention Getter

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# Examples of Attention Getter

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- **Quote:** Global Warming isn't a prediction. It is happening.
- **Question:** "Have you ever wondered how a single degree rise in temperature can trigger catastrophic changes worldwide?"
- **Surprising Fact:** Since the industrial revolution in 1700, the level of carbon dioxide on earth has increased by 34%
- **Anecdote:** Imagine standing on the shores of a disappearing island nation, where families are forced to abandon their homes due to rising sea levels.

# Background

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**Industrialization has led to the emergence of various environmental problems. Of all these, global warming is the most dangerous .... Global warming refers to the gradual increase in the average temperature of earth. The threat is constantly increasing ... the world leaders have not been able to reach a consensus to deal with this issue. Global warming is caused by the burning of fossil fuels... This burning has increased carbon dioxide... Furthermore, nuclear radiation and deforestation have made it worse...**

## Cont. Background & Thesis Statement

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If global warming remains unchecked, the repercussions can be catastrophic. Ice poles will start melting leading to rising sea levels. Pastures will turn into deserts causing mass extinction of several endangered species. **The undeniable reality of global warming, characterized by shifting weather patterns and escalating environmental threats, demands immediate attention at the individual, community and global levels to secure a sustainable future for our planet.** The essay would bring to light causes and effects of global warming followed by practical measures to counter the situation.

# Thesis Statement

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- Clear and concise sentence
- Presents main argument (point of view) of an essay
- Defines the scope of the essay
- Presents a roadmap for the reader
- Highlights the theme of the essay
- It is found in the first paragraph of the essay (introduction)

# Characteristics of a Thesis Statement

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- Acts as a guide for reader as well as the writer
- Creates coherence in the entire essay
- It is a statement which requires analysis and facts to support it
- Therefore, it is a statement that is debatable

# Examples of a Thesis Statement

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- Human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, are the primary drivers of climate change, and urgent action is needed to mitigate its devastating effects
- The implementation of inclusive education policies positively impacts students with disabilities by fostering a sense of belonging, improving academic outcomes, and promoting social integration

# Examples of a Thesis Statement

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- As technology continues to advance, the balance between individual privacy rights and national security concerns becomes increasingly complex, necessitating the reevaluation of surveillance practices
- Universal healthcare, while facing implementation challenges, is essential for ensuring equitable access to quality medical services and reducing the financial burden on individuals and families

# Body of The Essay

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- More than one paragraphs depending on the nature of the essay / assigned task
- Each paragraph elaborates a specific aspect of the subject matter
- It begins with a **topic sentence** presenting the main idea of that paragraph
- Topic sentence is followed by **supporting details** which are credible and relevant such as quotations, facts, statistics, examples and data that support the topic sentence



# Body of the Essay

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- Elaborate how the supporting details strengthen your argument as well as the thesis statement
- The manner in which the supporting details are connected with the thesis statement reflects the critical thinking ability of a writer
- Conclusion sentence reiterates the main idea of the paragraph and paves the way for the next argument
- Counterarguments are optional but if you add these, ensure to strengthen your thesis statement with evidence to refute it (counterargument)

# Body Paragraph

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# Example Body of the Essay

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Firstly, the rising temperatures leading to global warming are supported by extensive scientific evidence, and their impact on ecosystems is already evident. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Earth's average surface temperature has increased by approximately 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. This warming trend is primarily attributed to the excessive emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), resulting from human activities ...

## Example Body of the Essay

Some skeptics argue that **natural climate variability** is responsible for the observed temperature changes. However, it's crucial to note that the current rate of warming far exceeds natural variability and aligns closely with the levels of greenhouse gas emissions associated with human activities. **While natural climate variability does play a role in Earth's climate patterns, the rapid and unprecedented rate of temperature increase over the last century cannot be explained by natural factors alone. Extensive research and climate modeling consistently demonstrate that the overwhelming cause of recent global warming is human-induced greenhouse gas emissions. This conclusion is supported by temperature data, atmospheric observations, and the distinct fingerprint of human activities on the composition of the atmosphere. As the effects of global warming intensify, it is imperative to understand the profound consequences it has on ecosystems, biodiversity, and the delicate balance of our planet's natural systems.**

# Conclusion

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- Last paragraph
- Summary of main points presented in the essay
- Restating the thesis statement in different words
- Nothing new is presented
- It is used to create a lasting impression on readers with thought-provoking question, call to action, broader implication of an argument

# Example Conclusion

In conclusion, the irrefutable reality of global warming, driven predominantly by human actions, looms as a grave threat to our planet. The evidence presented, including rising temperatures, shifting climate patterns, and the dire consequences for ecosystems and human societies, underscores the urgency of our collective response. As we stand at this pivotal juncture, it is evident that global warming demands immediate and sustained efforts at local, national, and global levels. To secure a sustainable future for our planet, we must redouble our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, embracing renewable energy, and preserving the delicate balance of our natural world. The fate of Earth and generations yet unborn rests in our hands, and it is our responsibility to act decisively and address the catastrophic implications of global warming.

# Types of Essay



# Narrative Essay

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- Used to tell a story, recount personal experience
- Develops creativity and imagination
- Involves the use of literary techniques such as dialogues, analogies, metaphors, alliteration etc
- Used to emotionally engage the readers, provide lessons learned from experience
- It generally has a chronological structure
- Introduction sets the scene, body paragraphs describe the events in order, conclusion reflects on the experience



# Narrative Essay

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- Narrative Essay can be written on topics such as:
  - My First Day at University
  - A Memorable Orientation Ceremony
  - A Trip that Changed My Life

# Descriptive Essay

- Provides detailed, vivid and sensory description of person, place, object, event
- Focus remains on the description of subject
- Use of descriptive adjectives and action verbs
- Involves the spatial use of language
- **Descriptive adjectives:** Beautiful, Spacious, Pristine etc
- **Action Verbs:** Whisper, Emerge, Conquer etc
- Descriptive Essays can be written on topics such as Favorite Personality, Historical Site, Memorable Farewell Dinner

# Expository Essay

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- Used to explain, analyze, clarify a topic
- Used by writers to demonstrate knowledge and expertise
- Avoids personal opinion, emotional bias in writing
- Focus on factual information to keep the essay neutral and impartial
- Introduction presents the topic as the thesis statement
- Body paragraphs consist of evidence and explanation in the form of facts, statistics and citing sources
- Conclusion summarizes the main points

# Expository Essay

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- Expository Essay can be written on topics such as:
  - Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Industries
  - Effect of Social Media on Academia
  - Importance of Renewable Energy Sources

# Definition Essay

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- Used to define a term, idea
- Provides a detailed analysis of a subject matter
- Definition of a term is not limited to a dictionary
- The topic is elaborated after carrying out research to explore all aspects and interpretation
- Example topics: Freedom, Justice, Identity etc

# Process Essay

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- Also known as procedural essay
- Used to explain a procedure
- Elaborates a series of steps to perform a task
- Visual Aids such as diagrams and charts are also used
- Example topics: How to Design a Strong Resume, How to Maintain Balanced Diet, How to Change a Flat Tire, How to Remove Malware from a Computer etc

# Compare and Contrast Essay

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- Used to analyze and compare two ideas, concepts, subjects
- Used to examine similarities and differences between the two subjects
- To gain profound understanding of the relationship which exists between two subjects
- Helps learners to find and establish connection between two ideas or subjects

# Compare and Contrast Essay

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- First paragraph presents the thesis statement presenting the two subjects or ideas for analysis
- Body paragraphs present a comparative analysis of these two subjects in the form of the similarities and differences which exist between them
- Conclusion paragraph restates the main points discussed in the essay
- You can write this essay for comparing and contrasting electric vehicles and traditional combustion based vehicles, Comparing novels, economic systems etc



# Argumentative Essay

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- Used to present an argument or claim on a specific point
- Relies on facts instead of emotions to convince readers
- Main purpose is to convince readers to agree or accept writer's perspective
- Provides a clear presentation of writer's stance
- Comprehensive analysis of counterarguments to strengthen writer's viewpoint
- Writer avoids personal anecdotes
- Includes citation from relevant sources
- May include call to action (CTA)

# Argumentative Essay

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- Introduction presents the main argument in the form of thesis statement
- Body paragraphs are used to provide evidence in the form of facts and statistics without using personal opinion or emotional language
- Conclusion restate the stance, summary of main points and may include a call to action
- Argumentative Essay can be written on topics such as Impact of Technology on Education, Impact of Social Media on Mental Health, Impact of AI on Workplace

# Persuasive Essay

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- Similar to an Argumentative Essay
- Used to persuade the readers to agree / accept writer's viewpoint
- Persuasive essay is one-side unlike an argumentative essay which also includes opposing views and perspectives
- The main goal of the writer is to convince the readers through a variety of persuasive techniques

# Argumentation vs Persuasion

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- While the idea of free education may seem appealing on the surface, implementing such a system would place an unsustainable burden on governments and taxpayers, ultimately compromising the quality of education
- Education is a fundamental right that should be accessible to all, regardless of their financial circumstances. Implementing free education is not only morally just but also essential for fostering a more equitable society

# Argumentation vs Persuasion

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- Proponents of free education argue that it would increase access and reduce financial barriers for students. However, it is essential to consider the potential consequences, such as reduced funding for schools and a strain on public resources
- Think about the countless talented and motivated individuals who are denied access to higher education simply because they cannot afford it. Our society's progress and prosperity depend on ensuring equal educational opportunities for everyone

# Cause & Effect Essay

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- Used to explore and present causes of a specific phenomenon / event
- Discussion on causes is followed by the effect and consequences of a phenomenon
- Introduction presents the phenomenon within the thesis statement
- Body paragraphs are used elaborate causes and effects of a phenomenon
- Conclusion paragraph is used to restate the main points discussed in the essay

# Cause & Effect Essay

- Transitional phrases such as **because, as a result, consequently** are used to connect causes and their effects
- Example Topics: Causes and Effects of Air Pollution, Causes and Effects of Income Inequality, Causes and Effects of Stress on Mental Health etc

# Critical Essay

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- Generally used within the domain of Arts & Humanities
- Used to provide a critical analysis, explanation and evaluation of art, literature, concept, idea etc
- Readers become aware of the strengths and weakness of a subject matter
- Used for reviewing books, portraits, movies etc
- Introduction has the thesis statement presenting the subject matter for analysis and evaluation
- Body paragraphs consist of analysis in the form of plot, themes, characterization alongside textual examples



# Critical Essay

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- Evaluation exists in the form of highlighting the strengths and weakness of the work of art
- Conclusion restate the summary of main points regarding the analyzed work of art
- Example topics can be “Critical Evaluation of a (Film Name)”, “The Application of Symbolism in a (Novel)” etc

# Conclusion

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- What is Essay?
- Characteristics of Essay
- Significance of Essay
- Structure of Essay
- Types of Essay