

Essay Writing Practice Worksheet

Fifty practice items for essay planning, thesis writing, paragraph structure, evidence, analysis, transitions, revision, grammar awareness, and final-draft checks. Some questions have direct answers; others ask for short written responses.

QUESTIONS	50	MULTIPLE CHOICE	16	WRITTEN	34
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Instructions

Answer in complete thoughts when asked to write. For thesis and paragraph questions, focus on clarity, evidence, and connection to the prompt.

- 1

Which task word usually asks you to break a topic into parts and explain how those parts work?

A) summarize
B) analyze
C) copy
D) list
- 2

A strong thesis should usually include:

A) only the topic
B) a claim and reasons
C) a quote only
D) the due date
- 3

Rewrite this weak thesis to be more specific:
Homework is bad.
- 4

Name two things to circle or underline in an essay prompt.
- 5

The best time to check comma errors is:

A) before reading the prompt
B) before planning
C) after structure and evidence revision
D) never
- 6

Write a thesis for this prompt: Should students have a longer lunch period?
- 7

What is the job of a topic sentence?
- 8

Which belongs in a body paragraph?

A) topic sentence, evidence, analysis
B) title page only
C) random facts
D) only conclusion
- 9

Add analysis after this evidence: The survey showed that 72% of students felt rushed at lunch.

- 10** Evidence should be:
 A) longer than the paragraph
 B) relevant to the claim
 C) unrelated but interesting
 D) always a full page
- 11** Write one transition that shows contrast.

- 12** Write one transition that introduces an example.

- 13** Write one transition that shows cause and effect.

- 14** A paragraph with two unrelated main ideas probably needs:
 A) a louder title
 B) division or refocusing
 C) more font sizes
 D) no evidence
- 15** What should a conclusion do besides repeat the thesis?

- 16** Improve this topic sentence: There are many reasons.

- 17** Which sentence is more precise?
 A) The book is good.
 B) The novel builds suspense through short chapters and unanswered questions.
 C) It was stuff.
 D) Things happen.
- 18** What is the difference between summary and analysis?

- 19** Write a body paragraph outline using T-E-A format.

- 20** A quote should usually be followed by:
 A) analysis
 B) nothing
 C) a new title
 D) the table of contents
- 21** Give one reason to paraphrase instead of quote.

- 22** What does source context tell the reader?

- 23** Which essay type focuses on interpreting a text?
 A) literary analysis
 B) lab report
 C) schedule
 D) shopping list

- 24** Which essay type argues for a position?
 A) argument essay
 B) personal calendar
 C) index
 D) answer key
- 25** Write a claim about whether school start times should be later.

- 26** Write one counterargument to the later school start claim.

- 27** Write a rebuttal to that counterargument.

- 28** A counterargument helps an argument essay by:
 A) showing another side and strengthening the response
 B) removing the thesis
 C) ending the essay early
 D) hiding evidence
- 29** What should you revise first: structure or spelling? Explain briefly.

- 30** List three revision layers in a useful order.

- 31** Which sentence likely needs clearer wording?
 A) The character changes after losing the contest.
 B) The thing was like stuff and it was nice.
 C) The article explains the policy.
 D) The author uses imagery.
- 32** Rewrite this vague sentence: The author uses things to show stuff.

- 33** What is a rubric?

- 34** Name two rubric categories often used for essays.

- 35** If the rubric emphasizes evidence, the student should check:
 A) whether each claim is supported
 B) only the font color
 C) the file name only
 D) how many pages the printer has
- 36** Write a hook for an essay about community service.

- 37** Write a bridge sentence that could lead from that hook to a thesis.

38 What should an introduction usually include?

39 What should a final draft checklist include?

40 Which transition best shows addition?

- A) in addition
- B) however
- C) on the other hand
- D) nevertheless

41 Which transition best shows contrast?

- A) also
- B) for example
- C) however
- D) first

42 Write a sentence that uses the transition 'for example'.

43 What does it mean to maintain formal tone?

44 Which phrase is more formal?

- A) kids gotta
- B) students should
- C) stuff is weird
- D) kinda bad

45 Name one way to make a sentence more concise.

46 Shorten this sentence: Due to the fact that students were tired, they made mistakes.

47 Write one question to ask a tutor about an essay draft.

48 Write one note a tutor might leave on a weak paragraph.

49 What is the purpose of an outline?

50 Write a quick outline for an essay about school uniforms.

Answer key

Direct answers only, in question order. Work the set first, then check.

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|---|---|--|--|---|
| 1. B) analyze | 2. B) a claim and reasons | 3. Homework can become harmful when it replaces sleep and family time without improving understanding. | 4. Task words and topic/source requirements. | 5. C) after structure and evidence revision |
| 6. Students should have a longer lunch period because it supports health, social connection, and better focus in afternoon classes. | 7. It states the main point of one body paragraph and connects it to the thesis. | 8. A) topic sentence, evidence, analysis | 9. This evidence suggests the current lunch period may be too short for many students to eat and reset before class. | 10. B) relevant to the claim |
| 11. However | 12. For example | 13. Because of this | 14. B) division or refocusing | 15. It should leave the reader with a final insight or explain why the point matters. |
| 16. A longer lunch period would help students return to class with better focus. | 17. B) The novel builds suspense through short chapters and unanswered questions. | 18. Summary tells what happened; analysis explains why it matters or how it supports the claim. | 19. Topic sentence; Evidence; Analysis. | 20. A) analysis |
| 21. Paraphrasing is useful when the source idea matters more than the exact wording. | 22. Where the evidence comes from and why it is being used. | 23. A) literary analysis | 24. A) argument essay | 25. School start times should be later because more sleep can improve student health and attention. |

26. Later start times may create transportation or after-school schedule problems.	27. Districts can adjust bus schedules and activity times to protect sleep without removing after-school opportunities.	28. A) showing another side and strengthening the response	29. Structure first, because spelling polish does not fix unclear organization.	30. Structure, evidence, clarity, grammar.
31. B) The thing was like stuff and it was nice.	32. The author uses weather imagery to show the character's loneliness.	33. A scoring guide that explains what the assignment is graded on.	34. Structure and evidence.	35. A) whether each claim is supported
36. A single afternoon of service can change how students see their role in a community.	37. Many schools encourage service because it can build responsibility and empathy.	38. A hook, bridge/context, and thesis.	39. Prompt answered, thesis clear, paragraphs focused, evidence explained, transitions used, grammar checked.	40. A) in addition
41. C) however	42. For example, students who revise with a checklist often catch missing evidence before submitting.	43. Use clear, respectful academic language and avoid slang or overly casual wording.	44. B) students should	45. Remove repeated words or unnecessary phrases.
46. Because students were tired, they made mistakes.	47. Does my evidence clearly support my thesis?	48. Add specific evidence and explain how it proves the topic sentence.	49. An outline organizes the thesis, main points, and evidence before drafting.	50. Thesis; body 1 focus; body 2 social pressure; body 3 cost or discipline; conclusion.

Error log

Bring this page to your next session so the tutor can start from what actually blocked you.

Essay assignment or prompt I am working on:

My strongest essay skill right now:

The revision target I want to start with next session:
