

# ESSAY TERMINOLOGY

Essays can be broken into two basic types: formal and informal.

*A formal essay is a serious written discussion through which a writer conveys a viewpoint on a designated subject.*

*An informal essay is a lighter approach to a selection of writing on topical ideas or issues. They are often called familiar or personal essays.*

The purpose is to:	write about a significant subject by focusing on the ideas rather than the person speaking.	entertainment and perhaps provoke gentle reflection.
The author's viewpoint is:	usually third-person, using third-person pronouns.	usually first person; Directly addresses the reader
Sources of evidence include:	shared historical events or literature or other forms of knowledge.	the life of the writer and everyday events.
Vocabulary	Technical words according to subject; No slang or contractions; Avoids "you" and "I."	Everyday words; Slang and colloquialisms; Contractions; Uses "you" and "I."
The tone tends to be:	removed from the subject and appears to be objective; tends to hold emotions in check and express concerns through strong arguments and powerful rhetorical devices; Academic and often instructional	more personal and subjective; may be ironic, amusing, thoughtful, angry, or serious; Conversational and casual