



## The Six Types of Essays

- 1. The EXPOSITORY Essay (EXPLANATION)**  
This essay describes or explains a topic. For example, “How to Teach a Cat How to Play Fetch”, written in paragraphs, would work.
- 2. The PERSUASIVE/OPINION Essay (DEFEND AN ARGUMENT)**  
The author chooses a side and attempts to convince readers to agree with their thesis.
- 3. The INFORMAL/NARRATIVE Essay (RECOUNT A STORY)**  
This essay tells a story in an informal manner. It could be about the author’s childhood, someone’s views on an issue, etc. The essay is written in a way that “talks” to the readers.
- 4. The REVIEW (EVALUATE SOMETHING)**  
This type of essay takes something apart, (such as a film, book, or play), and analyzes it. For example, a review could cover the plot, conflict, and characters of a novel by explaining what happens, what worked, and what did not, and ultimately provide a recommendation for the audience.
- 5. The RESEARCH Essay (CONNECTING IDEAS)**  
These essays involve referencing different sources, (other books, reports, etc.), that will support the writer’s thesis by supporting and connecting to the writer’s own ideas.
- 6. The LITERARY Essay (EXPLORING LITERATURE)**  
A literary essay explores the meaning and construction of a novel, story, play, poem, etc. Instead of simply being a review, the writer argues for the “point” of the text by providing direct support and explanations. This could include commenting on parts of a text such as conflict, character, theme, etc., and should be supported with direct references to the piece of literature.