

Unit

1

Writing an Essay

Unit Goal	Writing an essay
Key Points	Writing an introduction Writing body paragraphs Writing a conclusion

Warm-up

 Read the paragraph and answer the questions.

Wearing School Uniforms

Students should wear school uniforms. If students wear uniforms, parents can save money. They won't need to buy many different clothes for their kids. Uniforms also help students focus on school. With uniforms, they won't care so much about their looks and will pay more attention to their studies. Lastly, uniforms make all the students the same. Some students may be rich and some may be poor, but uniforms make everyone equal. As students, wearing uniforms is the best thing to do.



1. Circle the topic sentence. What is the paragraph about?

2. Write the second main body point. Put () around the supporting detail.

3. Underline the closing sentence. What is it saying about the topic?

Features of an essay

- An essay is longer and tells more information than a paragraph.
- It has an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
Each paragraph is indented.
- It is usually four paragraphs or more.

 Read the essay and answer the questions.

Wearing School Uniforms

Many students don't like wearing school uniforms. However, there are many reasons why they should wear uniforms.

Firstly, if students wear uniforms, parents can save money. They won't need to buy many different clothes for their kids. School and lesson fees are already expensive, so it is helpful to save money on clothes.

Secondly, uniforms help students focus on school. If students don't wear uniforms, they might waste time worrying about what they will wear. With uniforms, they won't care so much about their looks and will pay more attention to their studies.

Lastly, uniforms make all the students the same. Some students may be rich and some may be poor, but uniforms make everyone equal. Thus, poorer students don't have to feel bad about not having fashionable clothes.

To conclude, students can pick their own clothes when they are older. As students, wearing uniforms is the best thing to do.

1. Label the introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion in the correct boxes.
2. Underline what has been added to the essay from the paragraph on page 6.
3. Circle at least five transition words.

Introduction

Introduction

The introduction has the **introductory sentence** and the **thesis**.

The introductory sentence can:

- give a **fact, information, or a definition**
- give a **general statement** (what many people think or feel)

The thesis can:

- say what you **think or feel**
- give a **fact or information**
- **introduce** what the body paragraphs will say



Write introductions using the sentences from the box. Make sure the introductory sentences and theses are in the correct order.

- However, there are many reasons that they should wear uniforms.
- People are vegetarians for several reasons.
- Moving to a different country was hard, but I learned many things.
- Americans and Koreans have different thoughts about age.
- When I was ten, I moved to Canada from Brazil.
- Many students don't like wearing uniforms.
- While Americans don't think age is important, age affects how Koreans act.
- A vegetarian is a person who doesn't eat meat.

Example **Introductory sentence:** Many students don't like wearing uniforms.

Thesis: However, there are many reasons that they should wear uniforms.

1. I: _____

T: _____

2. I: _____

T: _____

3. I: _____

T: _____



From the given body sentences, write the introductory sentences and theses. You can use the words in the parentheses or come up with your own words.

1. (celebrate / different ways)

Introductory sentence: Christmas is celebrated all over the world.

Thesis: _____

Body:

- In France, children put their shoes in front of the fireplace for Santa Claus.
- In the Philippines, people start singing Christmas songs as early as September.
- In warmer parts of the U.S., like Florida, people decorate palm trees instead of Christmas trees.

2. (time / money)

Introductory sentence: _____

Thesis: However, having a pet can have many benefits.

Body:

- You won't feel lonely with pets.
- Some kinds of pets, like dogs, protect you and your home.
- You can learn how to take care of something else.

3. (twins / personalities)

Introductory sentence: _____

Thesis: _____

Body:

- Both Jake and Kent have brown eyes, freckles, and big ears.
- Jake likes to talk and doesn't like being alone.
- Kent is quiet and likes to read books by himself.

Body Paragraphs

- Body paragraphs talk more about the thesis.
- Body paragraphs can **explain, describe, give reasons, or give examples** for the thesis.
- The first sentence is the **main point** and the following sentences are **supporting details**.

Example

Body

- **main point 1:** *If students wear uniforms, parents can save money.*
 - **supporting detail:** *They won't need to buy many different clothes for their kids.*



Fill in the outline below using the phrases from the box.

think meat has a lot of fat
think animals are friends

think animals shouldn't be killed for food
don't eat meat because of their religion

Introduction:

A vegetarian is a person who doesn't eat meat. People are vegetarians for several reasons.

Body:

- **main point 1:** _____
 - **supporting detail:** Muslim and Jewish people don't eat pork
- **main point 2:** love animals
 - **supporting details:** _____
- **main point 3:** want to diet or be healthier
 - **supporting details:** _____
eat more vegetables and fruits

Transitions

- **Going from point to point**

First, Second, Third, Finally, Lastly,
First of all, In addition, Also, Furthermore,

- **Time order**

Then, Next, Later, Last month,
In spring, At noon, On Monday,

- **Examples**

For example, For instance,

- **Reasons**

because since
because of due to

- **Differences**

,but ,yet However,
In contrast, On the contrary,

- **Similarities**

Similarly, Likewise,

- **Effect**

Thus, Therefore, ,so
Consequently, As a result,

Example

***Lastly**, uniforms make all the students the same. Some students may be rich and some may be poor, **but** uniforms make everyone equal. **Thus**, poorer students don't have to feel bad about not having fashionable clothes.*



Complete the body paragraphs using transitions and the outline on page 10. Write in complete sentences.

Body:

_____ some people _____

_____ They think _____
_____ they think _____

They think meat has a lot of fat. _____ they choose to eat more vegetables and fruits.

Conclusion

The conclusion ends the essay. Concluding sentences can:

- **restate** the thesis
- give a final **thought** or **feeling**
- **suggest** something
- **summarize** the main points
- **share** a hope
- **predict** something

Example

(predict + restate): *Students can pick their own clothes when they are older. As students, wearing uniforms is the best thing to do.*



Read the introductions and write conclusions. Use the words in the parentheses to pick which sentences from the boxes go in the conclusions.

- 1.
- Life would become awesome if I won the lottery.
 - Even though winning is almost impossible, I still hope I get lucky one day.
 - I would be able to travel in my own plane, give my parents a great present, and help others if I won the lottery.

Introduction: Many people dream about winning the lottery. If I won the lottery, I would buy an airplane, get a huge house, and give money to the poor.

Conclusion (restate + hope):

- 2.
- Stress causes many health problems.
 - Stress can make students sick, sleep less, and gain weight.
 - Students should talk to adults and do relaxing activities to deal with stress.

Introduction: Students often get very stressed because of school and their busy schedules. Stress has many bad effects on a person's health.

Conclusion (summarize + suggest):

Transitions

In conclusion,

In short,

In brief,

To conclude,



Read the following paragraph and write a conclusion with a transition from above.

Different Thoughts About Age

Americans and Koreans have different thoughts about age. While Americans don't think age is important, age affects how Koreans act.

For example, Americans usually don't ask about each other's age. In contrast, age is usually one of the first things that Koreans ask when they meet someone. It helps them know whether they have to use respectful language or can use friendly language.

Another example is that Americans use first names with older siblings or older friends. However, Koreans think this is rude. Younger people need to call older siblings and older friends by special words.

Conclusion

