

## Writing Dos & Do Nots

Explain how Europe benefited from [cultural diffusion](#) during the period c. A.D. 1000 - 1500.

### Absolute DOs of Writing an Essay

#### Introduction

Tells the reader the main idea of the composition and also suggests its type and purpose.

Each point you make in the introduction, which "grabs" the reader's attention, (i.e. makes the reader interested in your essay and makes them want to read more of your essay.)

#### The Grabber

- The first sentence in your introduction which "grabs" the reader's attention, It makes the reader Interested in your essay and makes them want to read more of your essay.
- The "Grabber" should be about a sentence long which introduces your topic with an Interesting fact, statistic, quote, etc. You want your reader to be interested!

#### The Topic Sentence/Thesis Statement

- Serves as the topic sentence for both the introductory paragraph and the whole composition.
- The purpose of your essay- the pint or points you are going to prove, argue, explain, describe, persuade, evaluate, or summarize.
- Each point or topic you are going to discuss in the body should be mentioned in your topic sentence. Each of these points will get its own paragraph in the body.

## **Body**

Develops the main ideas stated in the thesis statement. Paragraphs should follow in a logical order.

- Narrative composition: body tells what happened.
- Descriptive Composition: details develop the main idea.
- Persuasive/Explanatory Composition: body contains facts, reasons, and examples that support the main Idea or ideas.

## **Conclusion**

Brings the composition to an end.

Should review your main points once more and leave the reader with a final thought.

New information should not be introduced in the conclusion.

Conclusion should do one of the following things:

- **Evaluate:** give your opinion about the ideas your composition presents. **However, do not use I, ME, YOU, etc.**
- **Summarize:** or restate the main idea by returning the reader to your original thesis statement and main points- but don't just list the points all over again!
- **Persuade:** the reader to accept an idea or viewpoint by making a final convincing statement.
- **Look forward:** by showing your reader that your subject will continue to be important in the future for a certain reason.

**ALWAYS READ THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY  
AND BE SURE THAT YOU  
ANSWER THE QUESTION!**

## Absolute **DO NOTS** of Writing an Essay

**DO NOT** use personal pronouns

- I, me, you, we, etc.

**DO NOT** use "In this essay..."

- In this essay you will see...
- In this essay It will show...
- In this essay I will tell you...
- This essay will...

**DO NOT** repeat a sentence using different words to make the essay "long enough"

- The Stamp Act was one of the causes of the American Revolution.
- The American Revolution was caused by taxing the colonists with the Stamp Act.

**DO NOT** use words such as "stuff, like, etc." (The stamp Act was like a tax on legal documents), or other slang words

**DO NOT** use vague sentences that make no sense if they were standing alone without the essay around it

- They needed it to survive.
- He needed these things.

**Instead, use:**

- The Iroquois needed food to survive.
- Washington needed the weapons.
- Try not to use "they, he, these, there ,etc." USE THE NAME, PLACE, OBJECT in a descriptive way!

**DO NOT** use "below" or "above" when explaining what has been discussed or what will be discussed in the essay.

- In conclusion, above are the reasons for the Boston Tea Party.
- Below are ways women contributed to the Revolutionary War.

**Instead, use:**

- In conclusion, xxxxxx and xxxxxx are the reasons for the Boston Tea Party.
- xxxxxx and xxxxxx are the ways in which women contributed to the revolutionary War.

**DO NOT** use less than 3 sentences in a paragraph.

**DO NOT** use a person's name unless you know them personally.

- George was a great president.

**Instead, use:**

- Washington was a great President
- Gen. Washington was a great President

**DO NOT** misspell words- especially if they are spelled for you in the essay question.

**DO NOT** plagiarize.

- Do not copy any part of the essay. Use your own words.

**DO NOT** ask a question in your essay.

**DO NOT** begin a sentence with "And, But, Also, etc."

**DO NOT** use contractions in formal writing.