

Sample Academic Essay

This is the kind of essay one would write for a test like the TOEFL or ASSET. Notice the good hook and Thesis Statement. Each support paragraph has a good Topic Sentence, supported well in the body. The last paragraph has a good Thesis Restatement (the second sentence) and a good implication (the last sentence).

—Michael Krigline, MA (College English Instructor)

Reduce Waste on Campus (by Rachel)

If every student on campus wastes a gram of rice and throws away a piece of paper every day, the total waste would be beyond imagination. Even small resources, when used well, can help meet needs and aid development. Students can reduce waste on campus by saving food and paper.

First, in order to avoid wasting food, students and cafeteria workers must work together to ensure the balance of supply and demand for food. Students can buy the amount of food that is just enough for their daily needs. Cafeteria workers can provide different amounts and types of food to cater for different needs. If students buy only what they need, and workers provide the variety that students want, they will waste less food.

Making the most of a piece of writing paper is another way to reduce waste on campus. Students often throw away pieces of paper that are just partly used. Once students become aware that wasting paper is an ill habit, especially while doing calculations, they can write smaller and make full use of margins. Students should also use both sides of the paper and print personal notes on the back of “used” paper.

Small efforts, practiced by many people, bring big results. College students should try their utmost to reduce waste on campus by saving food and paper. Students should take these little responsibilities seriously, because for a country to develop, the problem of waste should never be ignored.

243 words

adapted from <http://www.krigline.com/Essays.htm#Academic%20Essays>

I also give my writing students the following instructions:

--Avoid using words like “I/me/my/we/our” in an academic paragraph, unless the instructions ask for your opinion.

--Be sure a peer (classmate) checks your essay for strengths and weaknesses before you give it to your teacher.

--Clearly type your name, ID, class, and other important information at the top.

--Indent each paragraph one tab space, and double-space your work.

--Do not use **type that is big**, type that is small, *or* **type that is bold**. Use normal type (it should be “size 12”, like this sentence). Most teachers prefer that you use one of these fonts: Times New Roman (like this handout) or Arial (which looks like this). (In MS Word, “ctrl+d” will take you to the font menu.)