

Expository Essay Template in APA

First name Last name

Course, School/University

Professor's Name

[Assignment due date]

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Introduction

The first sentence or two of your introduction is your hook. The hook is a sentence that “catches” your reader and makes them want to read more. For the rest of your introduction, which is usually one paragraph but can be two, you want to give some background information about your topic. Give your reader enough context so they understand. If you use any information from a source, make sure you cite it! The last sentence of your introduction is the thesis statement. This is the sentence that tells the reader what the rest of your essay will be about. Since this is an expository essay, your thesis statement will be your claim: something you believe based on research.

Body Paragraph 1

The first sentence of your body paragraphs will usually be a topic sentence. If your thesis statement is a claim, something you believe based on research, your body paragraphs will give evidence about that claim, and you will analyze the evidence. You can organize your body paragraphs using the MEAL plan, which means Main idea, Evidence, Analysis, and Link or Lead out.

Body Paragraph 2

In every body paragraph, begin with the main idea, which is your topic sentence. Your main idea is written in your own words, which means it doesn't come from research, so you don't cite it. Your main idea is something you came up with, based on your research. Then, write evidence to back up your main idea. The evidence does come from outside sources (Author, YEAR), so always cite! Then, analyze your evidence,

which means you interpret what that evidence means. Why is that evidence significant? Since it's your interpretation, don't cite it.

Body Paragraph 3

Again, begin your body paragraph with a main idea, then give evidence with a citation, then analyze your evidence. If you are using a "direct quotation" (Author, YEAR, p. #), make sure you cite the page number it came from. You will end each body paragraph with a sentence that either links back to the thesis statement, or leads out to the next paragraph. You don't have to have three body paragraphs. You should have as many as you need to sufficiently explore your topic. If your instructor gave you specific guidelines, make sure you follow them.

Conclusion

In your conclusion, you want to restate your thesis statement, which means convey your position again, but using different words. Then, you can summarize each of your main points, which are your reasons from each body paragraph. Since you are restating your claim and summarizing your main points, you won't be using any evidence and you won't need to cite anything. Lastly, end with a final thought, which is the last thing your readers will be left with.

References

Author Surname, Initials. (Year, Month Day published). *Webpage title*. Website Name.

URL

Author Surname, Initials., & Author Surname, Initials. (Year published). *Book title*.

Publishers. URL or DOI

Author Surname, Initials. (Year, Month Day published). Article title. *Journal Name*

Volume# (Issue #), page #-page #. URL or DOI

APA (American Psychological Association) is usually used for the social sciences. For any paper you write with citations, make sure you know which citation style you need to use.

Start your References page on a new page. Center the title- References. List your sources in alphabetical order by lead author's last name and use a hanging indent.

Note for this template: It shows how an APA paper would look. There is a title page, and the entire paper is double-spaced. Make sure you follow all instructor guidelines for which style you should use.