



# Academic Essay

An academic essay is a formal essay that adheres to the conventions of its discipline. For example, an essay in the field of literature is usually built upon evidence presented from literary texts, while an essay in a scientific discipline typically references data that has been collected through research. Like essays in general, an academic essay includes the following:

- A claim that is arguable and rational. The claim must also be legitimately disputable, or there must be multiple points of view with regards to the claim.
- Evidence and reasoning must support the claim in a rational way that is based on fact and not emotion.
- Information must be structured in a logical and cohesive (linear) way that ties each point to the one that follows and which builds towards a conclusion.
- All outside sources must be cited as footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations using a citation format (APA, MLA, etc.).

What is your claim?

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Is this claim disputable, or are there multiple points of view regarding this claim?  
How do you know?

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