

# English 101 notes essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

- Essay – short prose writing that explains an insight of your own.
- Narrative – story; essay is when you tell a story
- Story – contains protagonist, setting, conflict, resolution, plot.
- One sentence paragraphs are more effective in writing; it catches the reader’s attention more efficiently. Surrounding the main point with boring words in a long paragraph is not as effective. People will read the one alone sentence.
- Divide essays and stories into paragraphs (arbitrarily) because it makes the piece of work easier to follow.

- The more you look at something, the more you see; you see more, meaning you understand and take in more information or discoveries about the object.
- Always draw or write things down even if you don’t look at it again. Your thoughts are like dreams, if you don’t write it down, you will probably forget it later.
- Adverbs tell instead of show—“ She is happy.” vs. “ She smiles.”
- Show, NOT tell! Showing uses more words. Use action verbs and not adjectives or adverbs.
- Detail is the life of the work. Avoid unnecessary detailed descriptions such as weight, height, etc.

- Don’t worry about language, but get to the point/story. Don’t worry about poetic words; don’t let them get in the way of the story itself.
- Leave out chunky paragraphs! Cut out dead wood and unnecessary things. Make what you’re writing interesting, but stay invisible. “ If it sounds like writing, rewrite it!”
- Write what interests you; write what you like. If you don’t like what you’re writing, then the reader probably will not like what they’re reading.
- Cut dead wood from your writing: “ Needless to say”—then don’t say it. Dead wood like this is not necessary information. Just get to the point of the story or essay.
- “ I believe,” “ I hope,” “ I think,” “ I feel,” don’t qualify, so

just say it. These are not necessary in the beginning of every sentence. Get to the point. •Get rid of things too cliché in your writing.

•Irony always has discrepancy. •Writers don't put things in just to take up space. "If a writer starts off the story with a gun, someone better pull the trigger," otherwise there would not be a point in writing about the gun.

•Essays must have a main or central idea. It must have a claim or point. Thesis must be insightful or disputable. •Objective - all you can see and hear (six senses) everything that's visible. •Subjective - getting into a character's head by using words such as, "he thought." •Summary - chronology, more comments.

•Verb tense shift - write in present tense because it makes your paper more likely to be analytical rather than summarizing. •No block paragraphs. It is bad for the writer, better for the reader, and easier to follow. Block paragraphs can be intimidating. •If something is obvious, don't state that it is obvious. •Write for someone you want to impress, but write assuming they've read the story or text already. •Always read instructions!

•Don't try to use "big" words to impress people. Write small! •If you want someone to see something in your writing, make it a short sentence or paragraph. It will catch their eye. •It is easier for readers to read something in a short paragraph and it makes it easier for you to revise as well. •Do not throw in random thoughts. Stay in context, and stay on point. •We all think our lives are so boring but we all have something to give others or to share about ourselves. •Write in hopes and/or in knowing there will be an audience that can relate and enjoy the topic and subject matter.

Focus on what you're writing and don't worry about how others perceive your work because everyone gets something different out of different works.

- Not every subject in school is beneficial to every single student. Find your niche—find what you like and what you're good at. Study what you're interested in and don't give into any kind of pressures. Know your own limits and set your own goals. Nothing is too “ impractical” to pursue. There is no “ right” way to get ahead because every single person will start and end at different points. Everybody has a different destination and path, whether it is pre-planned or not.

- Take the road most people have not taken. Veer off from and don't conform to the norm. Take risks in life! You never know what it could lead to whether it is good or bad. Don't be afraid to experiment with new things.

Experimenting with new things, ideas, concepts, could lead you to discovering something new and astonishing. Ultimately, taking risks and making mistakes is a learning experience. Learning and obtaining knowledge relevant to your own life comes from the paths you choose to take.