

essay and article, planned before it's written



Essay, the four common types

Narrative

tells a story, real or imagined, building toward a point rather than just an ending

Descriptive

paints a scene, person or place in sensory detail, no real plot to carry

Argumentative

takes a side on a debatable issue and defends it with reasons and examples

Reflective

thinks aloud on a personal experience or idea, working toward what it taught the writer

Essay, how to plan before writing

- read the prompt twice, underline the exact type it's asking for before a single line is written
- jot three or four points in the margin first, a plan takes two minutes and saves ten
- pick an order for those points: strongest first, chronological, or building to the strongest, then stick to it
- leave the closing line for last, decide what the essay should land on before drafting the middle



four stops in order along a dashed path, plan then open then develop then close

Essay, the opening that earns marks *

- never open with the prompt restated word for word, a flat restatement reads as having nothing to say
- a strong opening move: a short scene, a question, a surprising fact, or a clear statement of stance
- the opening's job is to state the angle the essay will take, not to summarise the whole piece in advance
- keep the opening to two or three sentences, a long windup before the essay actually starts costs marks on pace