

essay and article, at a higher band of judgement



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

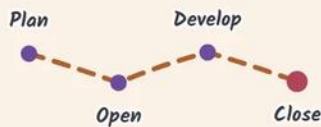
takes a side on a debatable issue and defends it with reasons and examples

Reflective

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

What raises an essay from competent to strong

- a specific, concrete example beats a general claim every time, name a real detail rather than a vague one
- vary sentence length on purpose, a run of same-length sentences reads flat even when the content is sound
- a strong essay anticipates the obvious counterpoint and answers it, rather than ignoring it
- precision in word choice is rewarded at this level, a well chosen word does more work than three vague ones



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