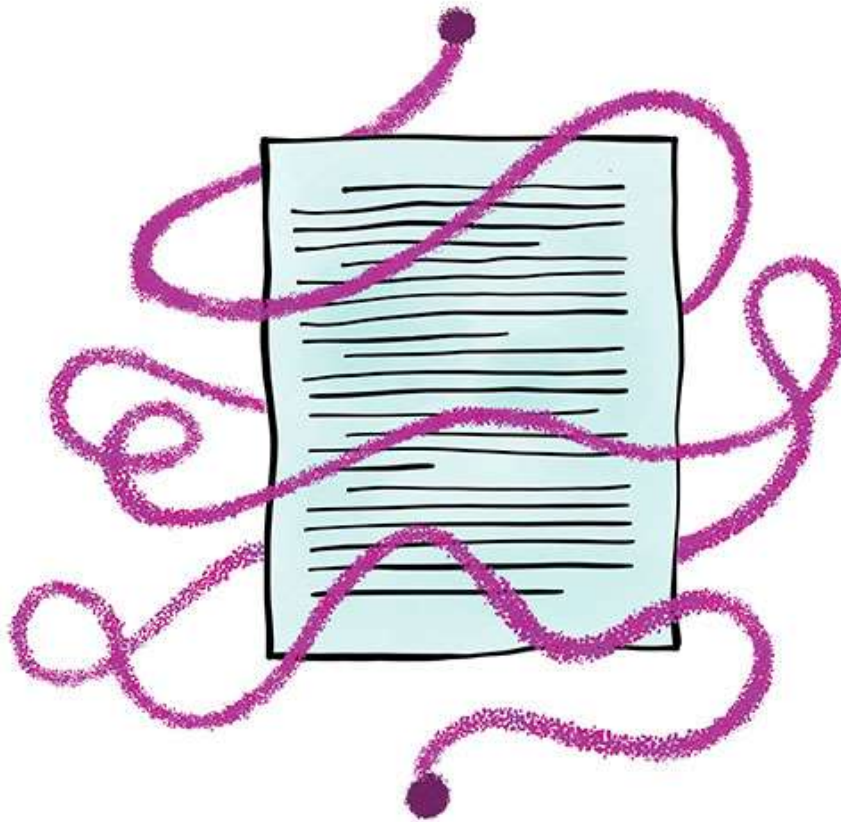


## INTRODUCING THE ESSAY

The expression of ideas or opinions is the essence of essay. Essays vary in length and can be written on virtually any subject. Some writers treat the subject seriously; others use humor. Essays include facts, but facts shaped to bolster an opinion. The writer gathers some facts and information by virtue of having lived for a certain number of years. Other information stems from research.

In contrast to formal essays, informal, or familiar, essays have no specific structure. The opinion or main point may not even be stated explicitly. The point that the essayist is making, however, should be evident to the reader, though the essayist may come at it in a rambling manner. Oftentimes, a writer is discovering what he thinks or believes as he writes. He may share anecdotes or incidences that led to his conclusion, but his essay will of necessity shed light on them and interpret their meaning for the reader. This is the value of an essay for a reader. A reader can identify with an embarrassing or an "ah-ha" moment. He can empathize and remember a similar situation. Beyond the shared moment between the writer and the reader, however, the essayist must interpret and evaluate what he has shared. He should judge and offer an opinion—for the expression of opinion is the essence of essay.



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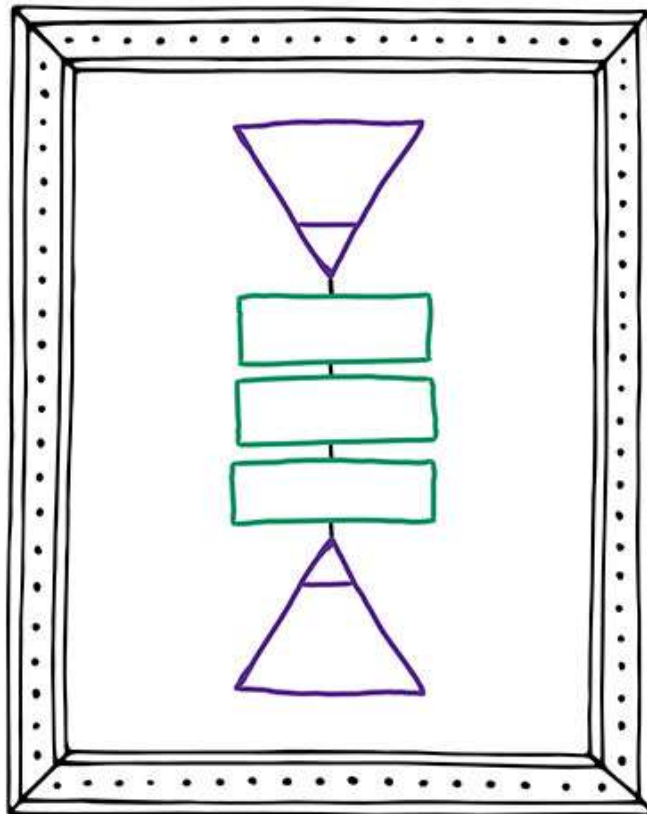
As you consider creating inside the box, think of the box as a frame. How will you frame your formal essay? The five-paragraph formal essay has a conventional structure composed of three parts: an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.

Note that the introduction begins somewhat broad and funnels to a point. That point is the thesis of the essay, stated in one straightforward declarative sentence. Knowing where he wants to arrive at the end, the writer begins with a general statement about the topic, the purpose of which is to orient the reader to the topic and to capture attention. The writer then narrows step by step to get to the point, the essay's thesis. Missing steps may cause the reader to stumble. The structure requires that the thesis statement be the last sentence of the introduction—the opinion of which the writer hopes to convince the reader.

The body of the essay consists of the reasons supporting the thesis, with one paragraph devoted to each reason. Traditionally, each paragraph begins with a topic sentence that supports the thesis. The paragraph is then developed with information supporting the topic sentence. In the five-paragraph formal essay, the body consists of three well-developed paragraphs.

In addition to an established structure, the formal essay offers a strategic organization of the body. To be most effective, the writer positions his second strongest point at the beginning, the first paragraph of the body. He positions his strongest argument as the last paragraph in the body and sandwiches his weakest point between the two, in the middle paragraph. In other words, the essayist saves the best for last.

Note that the diagram represents the conclusion as an inverted funnel. The first sentence of the conclusion should be a restatement of the thesis. Avoid dropping the thesis word-for-word into this slot. Rather, restate it in somewhat different words. The reader needs to be reminded of the main point before the essay ends but reminded in a way that compliments rather than insults his intelligence. Then you, the writer, can move away from the main point a bit, broadening the information you focus on. Perhaps summarize or echo ideas. Avoid bringing in new ones, however, or just trailing off. Rather, come to a satisfactory ending. The reader will appreciate a touch of finality.





# Benefits *of* ANIMAL TESTING

by Caleb Matthews

Thesis: Researchers should use animal testing.

- I. Animal testing has practical benefits.
  - A. Animal testing allows researchers to have control over a greater number of variables.
  - B. Animal testing gives the researcher the ability to check up on the research subjects at any time.
- II. Animal testing has medical benefits.
  - A. Animal testing allows researchers the room to make errors.
  - B. Animal testing gives researchers understanding of whether further human testing for a drug would be needed.
- III. Animal testing has ethical benefits.
  - A. Animal testing allows researchers to ethically test the consequences of possible side effects.
  - B. Animal testing allows researchers to force the test subjects to follow strict regimens.

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Humans have been using animals to test the effects of drugs on living organisms for centuries. However, in recent history, groups like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) want to end the use of animal testing. There is no reason to end animal testing; humans have used animals to test if conditions or drugs are safe for centuries. Using animal testing protects and saves human lives. Consequently, researchers should use animal testing.

Animal testing has practical benefits. Animal testing allows researchers to have control over a greater number of variables. Researchers buy rats bred to be as genetically identical as possible, and the lack of genetic variance allows the researchers to focus directly on how the trial drug affects living creatures. If the rats all came from different genetic backgrounds, the researchers would have a harder time distinguishing between the effects of the drug on the rats and the natural difference between the rats' phenotype (caused by their genotype.) This ability to control the genetic differences helps researchers develop a working drug in a shorter amount of time. In addition, animal testing gives the researcher the ability to check up on the research subjects at any time. When researchers use animals, like rats, they can keep them in cages and collect data whenever they want, giving the researchers full-time access to their test subjects. The ease obtained from keeping test subjects in cages accessible to only the researchers is another perk to animal testing.



The opening sentence introduces the topic with a neutral statement. 1

The thesis concludes the introduction. 2

The body begins with a topic sentence supporting the thesis. Identify the point on the outline. 3

Note how the transitional phrase guides the reader along smoothly. 4

Identify the point on the outline. 5

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How is this sentence functioning in the essay? **1**

Identify the point on the outline. **2**

Note the effect of the transitional word. Find in the paragraph another transitional word signaling that the argument is continuing in the same direction. **3**

Identify the point on the outline. **4**

What argumentative strategy does this topic sentence demonstrate? **5**

Animal testing has medical benefits. Animal testing allows researchers the room to make errors. When researchers first start developing drugs, researchers fear there may be an inherent danger that the new drug could have toxic effects on the test subjects. Consequently, researchers use rats and other lab animals to perform preliminary tests on new medical drugs because the tests lower the researchers' liabilities. Because danger inherently can come with the testing of a new drug, using rats is a smart way to save human life. Furthermore, animal testing gives researchers understanding of whether further human testing for a drug would be needed. As researchers test an experimental drug, if the animals are reacting negatively or even dying from the drug, the researchers can then either choose to try a lower dosage amount of the drug, or change the chemical makeup of the drug, so the animals do not



react negatively. However, the opposite could also be true; the researchers could be testing an experimental drug, and nothing happens to the lab animals. Researchers then would have to either increase the dosage amount or change the chemical makeup of the drug so the animals would react positively. Using animal testing to understand if a drug will work for humans is beneficial to the researchers because the testing lowers their liabilities, and, more importantly, animal research helps researchers find a suitable drug more quickly.

Animal testing has ethical benefits. Animal testing allows researchers to ethically test the consequences of possible side effects. While the testing of the experimental drug progresses, a side effect may manifest itself in the lab animals. Ethically, if the researchers were conducting



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tests on humans, the researchers would have to end their testing immediately and monitor their patients until the side effects subsided. However, with animals, researchers can continue the testing and see what the final cause and effect of the adverse reaction would be. Knowing the outcome of side effects is important when deciding if a drug is safe to take or not, and if researchers were not able to use animal testing, there would be no ethical way to test side effects. Moreover, animal testing allows researchers to force the test subjects to follow strict regimens. When researchers are trying to collect data on how a drug affects a living creature, they will try to control as many factors that they can between their experimental and control groups, such as type and amount of food, sleep cycles, stress conditions, and more. Ethically, researchers cannot subject humans to those types of strict restraints; nevertheless, researchers can enforce strict limits on lab animals, so, hopefully, the researchers will be able to collect helpful data. Animal testing allows researchers to enforce strict regimens to get clear and comprehensive data without ever having to impose unethical regimens on humans.

Because animal testing is practically, medically, and ethically beneficial to humans, researchers should use animal testing. Each benefit on its own is impactful enough for researchers to continue using animal testing. However, the combined gain of all these benefits makes animal testing essential to the development of drugs.

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Identify the point on the outline and indicate what signal the transitional word *moreover* sends. 11

Note the position of the restatement as the first sentence of the conclusion. What does this sentence do in addition to restating the thesis? 12

## Six Traits of Good Writing

Before tackling a new project, it's a good idea to stop and take stock. One goal this year is to practice and improve written expression. Let's begin, however, with a review of tools with which you are probably already familiar.



### Ideas

The contents of a composition

### Organization

The way in which thoughts, examples, and facts are ordered in a composition

### Voice

The writer's unique personality and point of view expressed through his writing

### Word Choice

The words a writer chooses to communicate specific facts, thoughts, or emotions

### Sentence Fluency

How a writer constructs his sentences to communicate his meaning engagingly, accurately, smoothly, and with intended emphasis

### Conventions

Guidelines (e.g., punctuation or capitalization) for the standard use of English

## Biblical Worldview Shaping Themes

This year you will build upon the four biblical worldview shaping themes introduced in *Writing and Grammar 9*: identity, logic, integrity, and judgment. Hopefully, you will not only recall these themes but also evaluate ideas within them, formulate a Christian understanding of them, and apply what you have learned about them to real-life situations. In doing so, you will be internalizing the themes and making them your own. In other words, you will be growing in Christlikeness—a Christian's highest goal.



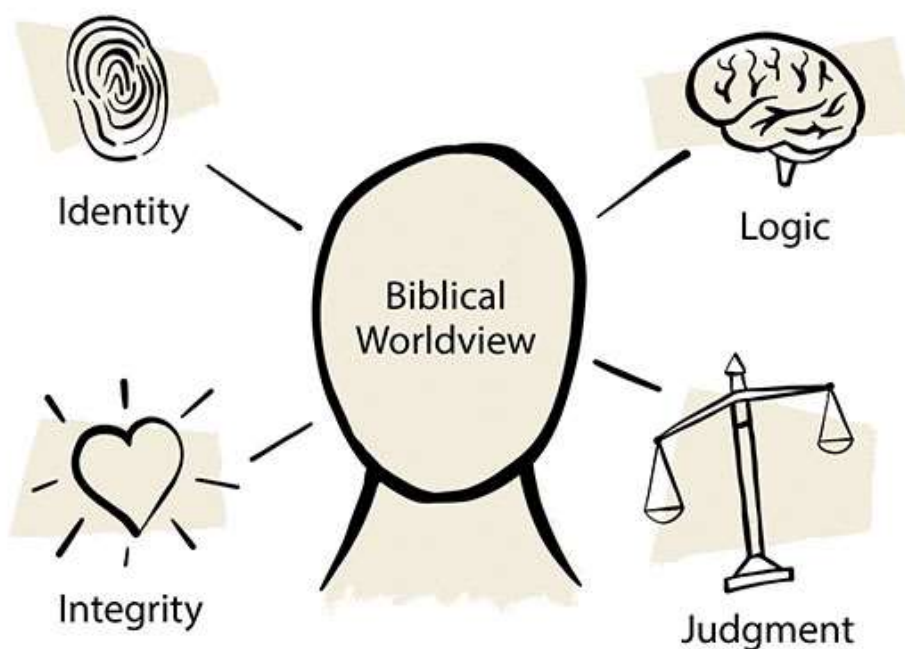
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### Identity

You are a unique individual, and this year you will be continuing to develop your unique writing style, a style by which you can be identified. If you are a Christian, you bear the image of Christ. Your identity as a Christian should be reflected in the content and style of your writing. As you identify with Christ to a greater and greater degree, your writing will more accurately reflect His person and His character.

### Logic

God has gifted human creation with the power of logic and intends that it be used in the service of truth. When a writer organizes his ideas and expresses himself clearly, a reader can logically follow the content. Unfortunately, many writers and speakers use fallacious logic to manipulate others to accept error. You will be taught this year to discern errors in logic and will be challenged to be ethical in your own use of this powerful tool.



### Integrity

The Christian's viewpoint will often differ from that of an unbeliever. It will sometimes differ from that of a fellow image-bearer. It is unethical, however, to misrepresent another's viewpoint and ungracious to attack the person rather than the argument or fail to give someone a fair hearing. Integrity demands that you treat with respect others with whom you disagree. To show an opponent respect while fairly presenting an opposing view puts you in the best position to defend truth.

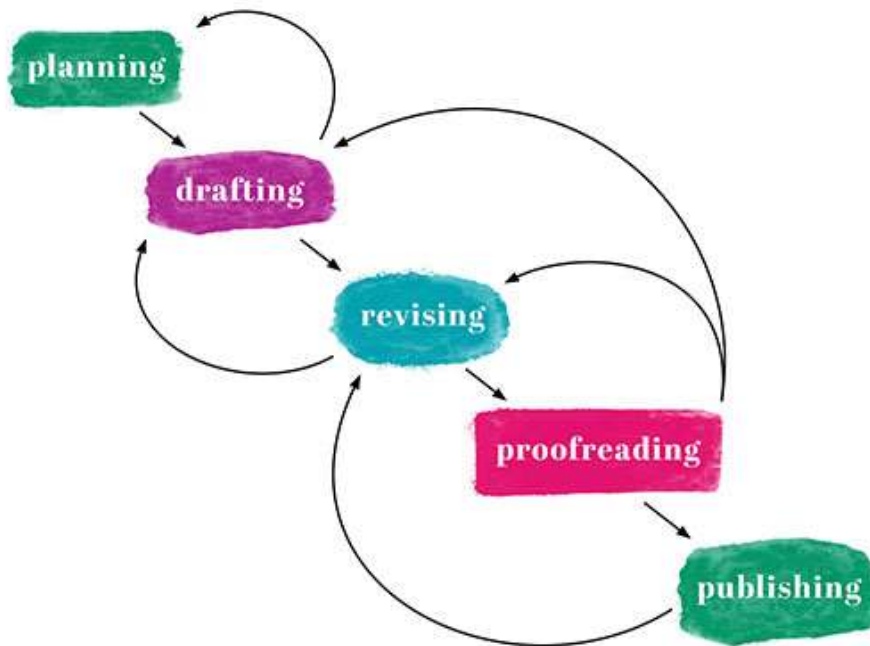
### Judgment

In small and sometimes in weighty matters, you make judgments every day. You want to be developing your ability to deliberate, to discern, and to make sound judgments, judgments in which you apply internalized biblical principles. Judging often requires distinguishing and evaluating. Secular culture will pressure you to accept its evaluations, but you will become a trusted and authentic writer if you develop and apply sound judgments.



## THE WRITING PROCESS

Now you are ready to begin the writing process. In this chapter you will progress through a series of five steps: planning, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing. However, you also know from experience that the process is seldom a clean, linear progression. Rather, you loop back again and again as necessary to fill a hole, to tweak, to adjust, to fine tune.



Both the amateur and the master must work through this recursive process, for all the stages are both valuable and vital to creating excellent written work. When you write, follow each of the steps, no matter how abbreviated each may be for certain types of writing. Skipping one or more of the stages may not have an obvious effect on your writing initially, but it will probably be painfully apparent later in the process. Lack of planning will lead to massive revision, no revision will lead to poor publication, and so on.

Whatever your talents or insecurities as a writer, revel in the writing process. With it, you have a proven plan of attack for any writing task put to you. Using the process will make you grow as a communicator. As each stage is reviewed, you will apply it specifically to the formal essay.