

102B Final Reading/Writing Exam

Write a research essay on a topic from your field of studies (450 words minimum).

Presentation rules (-2/50 for each you forget)

- Use your Canada notebook
- Write double-spaced (skip one line between every line)
- Count your words

A few reminders:

- You're supposed to write a problem-solution essay or a cause/effect essay.
- Follow the format we saw. You are supposed to have a thesis statement and topic sentences.
- On the back of your plan, you have the grid, which you can use as a checklist of requirements.
- You can use this document and a plan in point form. No printed articles.
- At the end, give me your text, your plan, and your bibliography.

How to use this document

The rest of this document is a copy-paste of what we saw in previous weeks. There is no new information. But students often lose points because they do not read all the instructions or skip parts they think are less important, so I still recommend that you read everything, highlight points you are afraid of forgetting (here and on the grid on the back of your plan), and use checkmarks to track what you've done.

Option 1: Problem/solution essay

Think of one problem that affects people in your field of studies (an example for farm management could be "an early spring") or that affects everyone but which is solved by people in your field of studies (an example for business students would be "helping someone to understand their personal finances so they can get out of debt"). In your introduction, you will explain the problem and what the right solution is. Then, in the development paragraphs, you will justify this solution with distinct arguments, normally one per development paragraph.

Option 2: Cause/effect essay

Think of one phenomenon seen in your field of studies (an example for science students could be "water pollution"). In your introduction, you will explain either the main cause or the main effect of this phenomenon. Then, in the development paragraphs, you will explore this causal relationship with distinct arguments, for example by dividing the main cause into separate sub-causes, normally one argument per development paragraph.

Final essay structure

Note: These are suggestions. They're good suggestions, but yes, it's very flexible. It's more like an example.

Introduction:

- Start by introducing an interesting anecdote, event, or story that shows why this topic is important. In a problem/solution essay, your introduction should briefly explain the problem and name its solution.
- End the introduction thesis statement (ONE sentence that clearly states the argument made in the essay)
 - Problem/solution: Solution X can help with Problem Y because of Reason A and Reason B.
 - Cause/eff: Phenomenon X is General cause/effect because of Cause/Effect A and Cause/Effect B.

Development Paragraph 1 (Refer to Article 1)

- A topic sentence about one argument (ONE sentence that states TOPIC and ARGUMENT)
Problem/solution example: "First, one advantage of Solution X is that it can (Reason A)."
Cause/effect example: "First, one way that we can observe General cause/effect is through (Cause/Effect A)."
- Some facts or statistics PARAPHRASED from article (in your words!), with a reference.
- Your explanation of why this information supports your argument.
- An interesting "QUOTE" from an article about an idea or opinion. (Opposite order is also ok.)
- Your larger explanation of this idea or opinion, or why it supports your argument.
- A concluding sentence that summarizes your ideas.

Development Paragraph 2 (Refer to Article 2)

- A topic sentence about one argument (ONE sentence that states TOPIC and ARGUMENT)
Problem/solution example: "Next, Solution X is also well-suited to Problem Y because of (Reason B)."
Cause/effect example: "Next, (Cause/Eff B) also seems to indicate that Phenomenon X is General cause/effect."
- Some facts or statistics PARAPHRASED from article (in your words!), with a reference.
- Your explanation of why this information supports your argument.
- An interesting "QUOTE" from an article about an idea or opinion. (Opposite order is also ok.)
- Your larger explanation of this idea or opinion, or why it supports your argument.
- A concluding sentence that summarizes your ideas.

Conclusion

- Re-visit the thesis, with new wording (re-visit does not mean "repeat")
- Re-visit each paragraph in ~2 sentences, with new wording
- Have a concluding passage that reflects on the overall meaning, scope, applicability, etc.