

GRADE 9 | 2024

Advanced Writing and Essay Techniques

English Home Language

CAPS ALIGNED

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1. Essay Types

You take a clear position and argue for or against it using facts, examples, and logical reasoning.

- Introduction: state your position (thesis statement)
- Body paragraphs: each presents ONE argument with evidence
- Counter-argument: acknowledge the opposing view, then refute it
- Conclusion: restate position and summarise key arguments

Reflective / Personal Essay

You write from personal experience, reflecting on what happened and what you learned.

2. Paragraph Structure

FORMULA: Topic sentence: main idea of the paragraph

Supporting sentences: evidence, examples, explanation

Concluding sentence: links back to main idea or transitions to next paragraph

3. Essay Planning (30 minutes writing = 5 min plan)

- Brainstorm: all ideas, don't filter
- Group related ideas
- Choose the best ideas
- Order your arguments
- Write a brief outline

4. Language and Style

- Vary sentence structure: simple, compound, complex sentences
- Use transitions: however, furthermore, in contrast, consequently
- Avoid repetition: use synonyms and pronouns
- Formal language: no slang, no contractions in formal essays

TIP: Leave 5 minutes at the end to check grammar, spelling, and punctuation.