

# THE UNIVERSITY ESSAY

---

## TYPES OF ESSAYS AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL:

**Research Essay:** requires that you research a narrowly defined topic and write a paper that not only *presents* the information, but also makes an argument *about* the information gathered. You use the material gleaned from your research to support your thesis.

**Critical Analysis:** usually an analysis of a book or article, but may be an analysis of a work of art, a film, a concert, etc. Rather than summarize, you must make an *evaluation* of the text in a manner that is appropriate to the discipline.

**Lab Report:** follows a precise format that includes a title page, an abstract, an introduction, descriptions of the methods and experimental procedure, a description and discussion of the results, a conclusion, a reference list and appendices.

**Literature Review:** an essay-style survey of a group of articles or other sources about a specific topic that both synthesizes and evaluates the material according to a controlling idea or a thesis.

**Annotated Bibliography:** a bibliography, using proper format for the discipline, where each entry is followed by an annotation—a few sentences or brief paragraphs about the source. The annotation might be a short summary, a critical evaluation of the source that describes its relationship to your topic, or, most likely, a combination of summary and evaluation.

**Report:** a written account of research findings, with sections that introduce the topic and the research questions, review previous work done in the area, outline the procedures, and present and analyse the result of the research.

**Executive Summary:** a synopsis that highlights the key points of a report, including the findings and recommendations and, often, an evaluation of them. It is written for a person who may be unable to read the entire report.