

Possible Writing Final Exam Types

Chances are that your professor has spoken to you about what type of essay you will be writing for your final. If not, there may be a choice of types, or one will be chosen from the essays you have done in the past.

If you have a **Synthesis Essay**:

Your thesis should include a statement of what the arguments of each side are together, both for and against the issue that is being discussed

(Example thesis: Therefore, those who are against writing essays in college believe that essays are too tedious whereas those who are in favor of college essays believe that rigor is the best way to achievement.)

In other words, if you have four articles, where two disagree and two agree, explain how the two “agree” articles are similar in their argument. Then explain how the two “disagree” articles are similar.

DO NOT TAKE A SIDE UNLESS ASKED TO DO SO SPECIFICALLY BY YOUR PROFESSOR

Your support will include evidence from both sides and equally weigh the arguments so as not to show bias. Your job is to make the arguments easier to understand so others can make an educated choice.

If you have an **Argument Essay**:

Your thesis should include a statement of two points that are on your side and one point against you.

(Example thesis: Despite the idea that essays are tedious and draining, college students should write essays because they learn better from constant practice, and essays are more work-based than multiple choice tests.)

YOU WILL TAKE A CLEAR SIDE HERE. THIS IS CALLED AN “ASSERTION” (Professor Barker) OR A “CLAIM.”

Defend your points with ample evidence and support. Make one paragraph an argument against the other side by stating their argument, then refuting it with convincing support against them.

If you have a **Summary-Response Essay**:

The first paragraph will be the article summary. An article summary is basically a large paraphrase. Use signal verbs and careful transitions between ideas. The first sentence should be the overall main idea.

(Example summary shell: The article "Stressays" by I. Monely-Jo King, Professional Essay Critic, is about the overall difficulty of essays and the beauty of the results of this difficulty. He begins by... . He continues by stating that... He then explains that... Next, he offers that... He concludes by stating...)

THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY OPINIONS IN THIS SUMMARY

The response will allow for your opinions and the judgment of the opinions of the writer and issue. It is like a conversation on paper back to the writer. This is where you can use opinions and support to back up how you choose to respond to this writer.

If you have a **Summary-Thesis Essay**:

This is a blend of the Summary-Response and Argument Essays.

The first paragraph will be the article summary (see above in Summary-Response), but your last sentence after the summary will be a thesis that addresses the question in the prompt about this article.

Some professors will want just the thesis after the summary. Some will want transitions. Make sure you understand your professor's choice.

The rest of the paper will be supporting your argument that you made in your thesis (see the Argument Essay).

If you have an **Academic Paragraph**:

Remember, you will not have a thesis, but a topic sentence. The topic sentence can list the points (controlling ideas) in it, or it can leave them out (make sure you understand what your professor wants).

Keep in mind that after a topic sentence you need your first point sentence.

(Example: Topic sentence- Essays are good because they are enjoyable, challenging, and intriguing to write.

First sentence: The first reason why essays are good is because they are enjoyable to write.)

You need to fully support one point before moving to the next point.

All academic paragraphs need to end with a solid conclusion sentence. Don't leave them wandering.