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**TIPS FOR WRITING A SUCCESSFUL ESSAY IN ENGLISH WHILE PASSING
THE UNIFIED STATE EXAM**

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The author gives some practical advice for those who are going to master their skills in writing an essay while passing the USE.

Key words: essay, writing skills, composition, structure, topic, idea, mastery.

**СОВЕТЫ ПО НАПИСАНИЮ УСПЕШНОГО ЭССЕ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ
ЯЗЫКЕ ПРИ СДАЧЕ ЕДИНОГО ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОГО ЭКЗАМЕНА**

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Автор дает практические советы тем, кто собирается овладеть навыками написания эссе при сдаче ЕГЭ.

Ключевые слова: эссе, навыки письма, композиция, структура, тема, идея, мастерство.

Writing an essay in English is one of the most problematic tasks when passing the unified state exam. The same complexity in our opinion may belong only to listening. As Shmeleva Zh.N. mentions “speech writing skills are of more analytical (discursive) nature thanks to the specifics of the speech written form” [4, p. 213]. Moreover, she adds that “In connection with the increasing role of the written communication in receiving and transmitting information, teaching writing as a kind of speech activity is becoming increasingly important” [2, p.187]. Besides, good speaking and writing skills according to Kapsargina S.A., Shmeleva Zh.N help modern students adapt and socialize in the new environment [3], [5], [6]. The necessity “of developing writing skills in students as a part of foreign language competency” is mentioned by S.A. Kapsargina [1, p.187] Therefore, training in essay writing should be particularly intensive.

Since 2012, the time allocated for the entire exam in foreign languages was increased to 180 minutes. Since the rest of the exam tasks have not been changed, we recommend you to spend extra time on the written part (80 minutes). Moreover, the plan for the tasks is specified, which can facilitate the better fulfilment of the task in writing. So, what is an essay? An essay is a short composition; its purpose is to convey individual impressions and thoughts on a specific issue. It is such a creative task as writing an essay that makes it possible to characterize you as a person, to show your worldview, your knowledge, your potential.

To write an essay in English requires a fairly high level of language proficiency and since this task can be called creative, you must learn to express your point of view and develop a given idea. Certainly it is not an easy task even in the native language but you can master this art, especially if you follow the plan, which will be discussed below. When you first see the task for an essay there will be a plan:

What is your opinion? Do you agree with this statement?

Write 200-250 words.

Use the following plan:

- make an introduction (state the problem);
- express your personal opinion and give 2-3 reasons for your opinion;
- express an opposing opinion and give 1-2 reasons for this opposing opinion;
- explain why you don't agree with the opposing opinion
- make a conclusion restating your position.

So, what you need to do first is to divide the text into semantic paragraphs in accordance with the plan proposed in the task.

In the first paragraph, state the problem you will be discussing, but do not repeat the topic word for word. Imagine that your reader does not know what is going to be discussed, and try to explain the problem to him in other words.

Highlight the positive and negative sides of the problem; think about reasonable arguments in support of both points of view. Remember that you have to express not only your point of view, but also the opposite. Also be sure to explain why you disagree with the other point of view. Try to keep a balance between paragraphs.

Use word-bundles to help the reader follow the logic of your reasoning. Remember that the introductory words are separated by commas.

In the last paragraph, make a generalized conclusion on this problem. You can also finalize your opinion or suggest solutions to this problem. We advise such a structure by parts:

- Title – the title of the essay, which reflects the theme of the narrative.
- Introduction – 2-4 short sentences that reveal the topic of the essay.
- The main part – 2-3 paragraphs, which describe the essence of the work. You should expand on the topic fully and competently, provide arguments and reasoning for them.
- The conclusion should be 2-4 sentences that summarize the general conclusion on the topic.

In the main part of the essay, all paragraphs begin with an introductory sentence (Topic Sentence) – introduction. Further, the idea of Topic Sentence is developed and confirmed. The volume of the composition should be 200-250 words. At the same time, the articles (a, an, the) are also words, so do not get too carried away with the development of ideas, try to stay within the given framework.

Moreover, some stylistic tips should be given in order to make your essay correct.

In order not to worry about the clarity of your essay, you need to have a clear plan and a deep understanding of the material. Try to use simple phrases, without

abstruse terms. So you can avoid a lot of mistakes in English. Without abusing complex expressions, you should also avoid abbreviations or slang.

Remember the difference between writing and speaking. Use as many adjectives and adverbs as possible to make your essay colorful and expressive. In general, you should clearly state the main ideas and problems of your essay so that the reader can follow the course of your thought without being distracted by unnecessary reasoning.

Ideally, you should aim for a complete absence of grammatical and spelling errors. The general structure, doing paragraphs, punctuation-everything should be done correctly to help the reader feel your reasoning. Here are some tips for writing an essay:

1. Use academic writing style.

- * Avoid very categorical judgments and generalizations.
- * If possible, avoid personal pronouns.
- * Prove what has been said with quotes and source data.
- * Respect gender equality: when it comes to abstract personality, use person instead of man. It is also better to use the pronoun they instead of he or she.
- * Try to use phrases that are based on a noun, not a verb. For example, rather than “Computers were becoming widely used by teenagers and the parents were becoming concerned” write “The rapid increase in computer addiction of teenagers was causing concern among the parents”.

2. Do not use colloquial elements.

- * Instead of abbreviations don't, they're, its, etc. always use the full form.
- * Eliminate slang and colloquialisms. For example: kid, a lot of/lots of, cool.
- * Do not deviate from the topic.
- * Instead of phrasal verbs (get away with, get off, put in) use a one-word synonyms.
- * Avoid very general words (all, get, thing). Be precise and specific.
- * Do not abuse exclamation marks, brackets, avoid direct questions.

3. Strive to give objectivity to the text.

- * Encouraged the use of impersonal constructions (It is believed that; it can be argued that ...).
- * Use the passive voice when it is not necessary to specify the performer of the action (the experiment had been conducted).
- * Use non-categorical verbs (suggest, claim, suppose).
- * To avoid personal judgments, but to show your attitude to the issue, you can use adverbs: apparently, ideally, arguably, unexpectedly, strangely.
- * To soften the categorical speech, try use modal verbs could, would, may, might.
- * To avoid generalizations, use qualifying adverbs: some, a minority of, several, many, a few.

4. Try to observe the coherency of the text.

The thoughts in your essay must be expressed consistently. Nevertheless, it is also important that the transition from one thought to another is smooth, one must seem to flow from the other. You must keep the coherency of the text and guide the

reader. The introductory and linking phrases discussed above will help you. These phrases can perform various functions. For example:

- opposition: but, however, on the contrary, on the other hand, yet
- example: for example, that is
- cause: therefore, so, as a result, consequently, this results in, this leads to
- addition: similarly, as well as, furthermore, moreover, in addition
- listing: then, next, after that, finally, ultimately
- conclusion: therefore, thus, consequently, as a result

When writing an essay in English, try not “to pour much water” in order to have the volume. A large amount of unnecessary information will be a big disadvantage of your essay.

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