

# CLASSIC CLASSES (ANKUL SIR)

We stress learning, not teaching.....

Following are some useful tips on writing essays. By going through the below sample essays a few times (twice or thrice) and then practising by replicating them, one can achieve a certain level of confidence in a very short time.

- Pick up any sample essay and begin by going through few lines with full concentration, understanding fully what idea is being conveyed. You may begin with **Sample Essay #2** given on our website.
- Try to retain the construction and choice of words used to convey the idea. Then attempt to re-write the same idea with a bit different choice of words and variance in construction while maintaining the central idea intact. Start with four or five sentences at a time. First, try to retain them in your memory by going through twice or thrice. Follow this by writing these lines without looking at them. Practise two to three paragraphs in this manner at one sitting.
- Very soon you will realize your pen is fast achieving synchronization with your thoughts.
- For essay writing/ descriptive English, the key element is practice and practice. There is no short-cut.

## General Essay Format and Technique:

Introduction:

Introductory Paragraph

The introductory paragraph should include the main statement, a kind of mini-outline for the essay: it tells the reader what the essay is about. The last sentence of this paragraph must also contain a transitional/link "sentence/statement" which moves the reader to the first paragraph of the body of the essay.

**Body:**

**Body — First paragraph:**

The first paragraph of the body should contain the strongest possible argument, most significant example, relevant illustration/s, or an obvious beginning point. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the "joining statement" which ties in with the transitional statement at the end of the introductory paragraph. This technique gives a sense of coherence to the essay.

**Body — Second paragraph:**

The second paragraph of the body should contain the second strongest argument, second most significant example, second most relevant illustration, or an obvious follow up the first paragraph in the body. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the joining statement which ties in with the transitional statement at the end of the first paragraph of the body. Again The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional statement to tie into the third paragraph of the body.

**Body — Third or subsequent paragraph/s (if any):**

The third paragraph of the body should contain an obvious follow up to the second/previous paragraph/s in the body. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the reverse link statement/element which ties in with the link statement/element at the end of the second paragraph. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This paragraph should relate to the statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional concluding link statement/element that signals the reader that this is the final major point being made in the essay.

You can have as many paragraphs as are required. However each paragraph should be relevant and must have joining statements to render the coherence to the essay.

### **Concluding paragraph:**

This paragraph should include the following:

A summary of the three/or more main points from the body of the essay as discussed in all the paragraphs.

A final statement that gives the reader signals that the discussion has come to an end.

### **Samples:**

The following are some sample essays.

To begin with, the following essay is written by Stephen King, a famous author, on the literary work of yet another giant of literature Edgar Allan Poe.

#### **Para 1.**

**Stephen King, creator of such stories as Carrie and Pet Sematary, stated that the Edgar Allan Poe whose stories he read as a child gave him the inspiration and instruction he needed to become the writer that he is. Poe, as does Stephen King, fills the reader's imagination with the images that he wishes the reader to see, hear, and feel. His use of vivid, concrete visual imagery to present both static and dynamic settings and to describe people is part of his technique. Poe's short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" is a story about a young man who kills an old man who cares for him, dismembers the corpse, then goes mad when he thinks he hears the old man's heart beating beneath the floor boards under his feet as he sits and discusses the old man's absence with the police. In "The Tell-Tale Heart," a careful reader can observe Poe's skillful manipulation of the senses.**

(The introductory paragraph includes a paraphrase of something said by a famous person in order to get the reader's attention. The second sentence leads up to the main statement which is the third sentence. The main statement (sentence 3) presents topic of the essay to the reader and provides a mini- outline. The topic is Poe's use of visual imagery. The mini- outline tells the reader that this essay will present Poe's use of imagery in three places in his writing: (1) description of static setting; (2) description of dynamic setting; and (3) description of a person. The last sentence of the paragraph uses the words "manipulation" and "senses" as transitional statements.)

#### **Para 2.**

**The sense of sight, the primary sense, is particularly susceptible to manipulation. In "The Tell-Tale Heart," Poe uses the following image to describe a static scene: "His room was as black as pitch with the thick darkness . . ." Poe used the words "black," "pitch," and "thick darkness" not only to show the reader the condition of the old man's room, but also to make the reader feel the darkness." "Thick" is a word that is not usually associated with color (darkness), yet in using it, Poe stimulates the reader's sense of feeling as well as his sense of sight.**

(In the first sentence of the second paragraph (first paragraph of the body) the words "sense" and "manipulation" are used to join the the end of the introductory paragraph. The first part of the second sentence provides the topic for this paragraph--imagery in a static scene. Then a quotation from "The Tell-Tale Heart" is presented and briefly discussed. The last sentence of this paragraph uses the expressions "sense of feeling" and "sense of sight" as joining elements for leading into the third paragraph.)

#### **Para 3.**

**Further on in the story, Poe uses a couple of words that cross not only the sense of sight but also the sense of feeling to describe a dynamic scene. The youth in the story has been standing in the open doorway of the old man's room for a long time, waiting for just the right moment to reveal himself to the old man in order to frighten him. Poe writes: "So I opened it [the lantern opening]--you cannot imagine how stealthily, stealthily--until, at length, a single dim ray, like the thread of the spider, shot from out the crevice and fell full upon the vulture eye." By using the metaphor of the thread of the spider (which we all know is a creepy creature) and the word "shot," Poe almost makes the reader gasp, as surely did the old man whose one blind eye the young man describes as "the vulture eye."**

(The first sentence of the third paragraph (second paragraph of the body) uses the words "sense of sight" and "sense of feeling" to join back into the previous paragraph. Again, a quotation is taken from the story, and it is briefly discussed. The last sentence uses the words "one blind eye" which was in the quotation. This expression provides the transitional element/joining element for the last paragraph in the body of the essay.)

**The reader does not know much about what the old man in this story looks like except that he has one blind eye. In the second paragraph of "The Tell-Tale Heart," Poe establishes the young man's obsession with that blind eye when he writes: "He had the eye of the vulture--a pale blue eye, with a film over it." This "vulture eye" is evoked over and over again in the story until the reader becomes as obsessed with it as does the young man. His use of the vivid, concrete word "vulture" establishes a specific image in the mind of the reader that is inescapable or indelible.**

(In the first sentence of the fourth paragraph (third paragraph in the body), "one blind eye" is used that to join into the previous paragraph. This first sentence also lets the reader know that this paragraph will deal with descriptions of people: ". . . what the old man looks like . . ." Once again Poe is quoted and discussed. The last sentence uses the word "image" which joins into the last paragraph. (It is less important that this paragraph has a joining element since the last paragraph is going to include a summary of the body of the essay.)

**"Thick darkness," "thread of the spider," and "vulture eye" are three images that Poe used in "The Tell-Tale Heart" to stimulate a reader's senses. Poe wanted the reader to see and feel real life. He used concrete imagery rather than vague abstract words to describe settings and people. If Edgar Allan Poe was one of Stephen King's teachers, then readers of King owe a debt of gratitude to that nineteenth-century creator of horror stories.**

(The first sentence of the concluding paragraph uses the principal words from the quotations from each paragraph of the body of the paper. This summarizes those three paragraph. The second and third sentences provide observations which can also be considered a summary, not only of the content of the essay, but also offers personal opinion which was logically drawn as the result of this study. The last sentence returns to the Edgar Allan Poe-Stephen King relationship which began this essay. This sentence also provides a "wrap-up" and gives the essay a sense of finality/conclusion.)

