

A Successful Essay

The secret to a successful essay isn't just in the clever things you talk about and the way you structure your points.

Here are the words and phrases you need to write an essay, along with examples of how to utilize them. There should be enough below to help you make an instant improvement to your essay-writing skills.

1. In order to

Usage: "In order to" can be used to introduce an explanation for the purpose of an argument.

Example: "In order to understand X, we need first to understand Y."

2. In other words

Usage: Use "in other words" when you want to express something in a different way (more simply), to make it easier to understand, or to emphasise or expand on a point.

Example: "Frogs are amphibians. In other words, they live on the land and in the water."

3. To put it another way

Usage: This phrase is another way of saying "in other words", and can be used when you feel that it may help the reader achieve a better understanding of its importance.

Example: "Plants rely on photosynthesis. To put it another way, they will die without the sun."

4. To that end

Usage: Use "to that end" or "to this end" in a similar way to "in order to" or "so".

Example: "Zoologists have long sought to understand how animals communicate with each other. To that end, a new study has been launched that looks at elephant sounds and their possible meanings."

5. Furthermore

Usage: This is also generally used at the start of a sentence, to add extra information.

Example: "Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that..."

6. What's more

Usage: This is used in the same way as "moreover" and "furthermore".

Example: "What's more, this isn't the only evidence that supports this hypothesis."

7. Similarly

Usage: Use "similarly" in the same way as "likewise".

Example: "Audiences at the time reacted with shock to Beethoven's new work, because it was very different to what they were used to. Similarly, we have a tendency to react with surprise to the unfamiliar."

8. Not only... but also

Usage: This wording is used to add an extra piece of information, often something that's in some way more surprising or unexpected than the first piece of information.

Example: "Not only did Edmund Hillary have the honour of being the first to reach the summit of Everest, but he was also appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire."

9. Firstly, secondly, thirdly...

Usage: This can be used to structure an argument, presenting facts clearly one after the other.

Example: "There are many points in support of this view. Firstly, X. Secondly, Y. And thirdly, Z."

10. However

Usage: Use "however" to introduce a point that disagrees with what you've just said.

Example: "Scholar A thinks this. However, Scholar B reached a different conclusion."

11. On the other hand

Usage: Usage of this phrase includes introducing a contrasting interpretation of the same piece of evidence, a different piece of evidence that suggests something else, or an opposing opinion.

Example: “The historical evidence appears to suggest a clear-cut situation. On the other hand, the archaeological evidence presents a somewhat less straightforward picture of what happened that day.”

Use these words and phrases to instantly improve your essays. If you need to write an essay to pass an exam or test start writing now and slowly but surely the written work you do will improve. Pass this post on to all your friends who write.

A Successful Essay Part 2

The secret to a successful essay doesn't just lie in the clever things you talk about and the way you structure your points. You need to write a first-class essay, along with examples of how to make the most of them. There should be enough below to help you make an instant improvement to your essay-writing skills.

Consider a point

Despite this

Usage: Use “despite this” or “in spite of this” when you want to outline a point that stands regardless of a short falling in the evidence.

Example: “The sample size was small, but the results were important despite this.”

With this in mind

Usage: Use this when you want your reader to consider a point in the knowledge of something else.

Example: “We've seen that the methods used in the 19th century study did not always live up to the rigorous standards expected in scientific research today, which makes it difficult to draw definite conclusions. With this in mind, let's look at a more recent study to see how the results compare.”

Provided that

Usage: This means “on condition that”. You can also say “providing that” or just “providing” to mean the same thing.

Example: “We may use this as evidence to support our argument, provided that we bear in mind the limitations of the methods used to obtain it.”

In view of/in light of

Usage: These phrases are used when something has shed light on something else.

Example: “In light of the evidence from the 2013 study, we have a better understanding of…”

Nonetheless

Usage: This is similar to “despite this”.

Example: “The study had its limitations, but it was nonetheless groundbreaking for its day.”

Nevertheless

Usage: This is the same as “nonetheless”.

Example: “The study was flawed, but it was important nevertheless.”

Giving examples

For instance

Example: “Some birds migrate to avoid harsher winter climates. Swallows, for instance, leave the UK in early winter and fly south…”

To give an illustration

Example: “To give an illustration of what I mean, let’s look at the case of…”

Signifying importance

When you want to demonstrate that a point is particularly important, there are several ways of highlighting it as such.

Significantly

Usage: Used to introduce a point that is loaded with meaning that might not be immediately apparent.

Example: “Significantly, Tacitus omits to tell us the kind of gossip prevalent in Suetonius’ accounts of the same period.”

Notably

Usage: This can be used to mean “significantly” (as above), and it can also be used interchangeably with “in particular” (the example below demonstrates the first of these ways of using it).

Example: “Actual figures are notably absent from Scholar A’ s analysis.”

Importantly

Usage: Use “importantly” interchangeably with “significantly”.

Example: “Importantly, Scholar A was being employed by X when he wrote this work, and was presumably therefore under pressure to portray the situation more favourably than he perhaps might otherwise have done.”

Summing it all up

In conclusion

Usage: Typically used to introduce the concluding paragraph or sentence of an essay, summarising what you’ ve discussed in a broad overview.

Example: “In conclusion, the evidence points almost exclusively to Argument A. ”

Above all

Usage: Used to signify what you believe to be the most significant point, and the main takeaway from the essay.

Example: “Above all, it seems pertinent to remember that...”

Persuasive

Usage: This is a useful word to use when summarising which argument you find most convincing.

Example: “Scholar A’ s point - that Constanze Mozart was motivated by financial gain - seems to me to be the most persuasive argument for her actions following Mozart’ s death.”

All things considered

Usage: This means “taking everything into account” .

Example: “All things considered, it seems reasonable to assume that...”

How many of these words and phrases will you get into your next essay? And are any of your favorite essay terms missing from our list? Let us know in the comments below!