

Definition Essay Structure

I. Introduction:

A. Attention getter

1. You may want to include the traditional or dictionary definition here to provide a basis for your personal definition.
2. You may want to open with a contradictory image to what would be your image to illustrate that definition.

B. Thesis:

1. State how you define the term. If you can write the definition using specific points, you will find the definition easier to follow when writing the paper. How you define the term will then be illustrated in the body with supportive details, examples, and/or facts/figures.

Example: Happiness is **having fun with friends, making memories with family, and finding some time in between for the enjoyment of personal hobbies.**

II. Body Paragraphs (3)

A. Point one (*having fun with friends: don't just list examples of what you do, elaborate on why it makes you happy*)

1. The first part of your definition of the term (topic sentence).
2. Examples to illustrate that point.
3. Analysis of how the examples illustrates the point.

B. Point two (*making memories with family: don't just list memories, explain how the memories make you happy*)

1. The second part of the definition of the term (topic sentence).
2. Examples to illustrate that point.
3. Analysis of how the examples illustrates the point.

C. Point three (*finding some time in between for personal hobby enjoyment: don't just list examples, elaborate on why they make you happy*)

1. The third part of the definition (topic sentence).
2. Examples to illustrate that point.
3. Analysis of how the examples illustrates the point.

III. Conclusion

A. Review your definition's main points

B. Closing attention getter

1. Sometimes a reference back to the opening attention-getter is a good way of unifying the entire essay.
2. You may want to close with an explanation of how your definition has affected or is significant to you