

# Writing Assignments: A brief description of common writing assignment types at university

## Essay or Paper

An essay or paper is a general term for a writing assignment discussing one topic at length. Essays can ask you to make an argument, analyze a topic, or describe something in detail, with or without providing research.

## Reflection

A reflection asks you to look back and think carefully about a past experience. Usually, you make connections about your experience to a particular topic, concept, or theory.

## Lab Report

A lab report documents and discusses the findings of an experiment. Usually, a lab report follows a very structured format that you need to follow closely.

## Analysis or Critique

An analysis or critique (usually of an article or book) asks you to summarize and evaluate a source. Often you will discuss its strengths and weaknesses, compare it to other works, or connect it to a particular topic.

## Literature Review

A literature review provides a detailed examination of a particular topic. Usually, you summarize and state the significance of different authors' perspectives on a topic or subject. You will also need to identify gaps or problems in the research.

## Proposal

A proposal summarizes your topic and approach as you plan a larger research project. The length and level of detail of your proposal will depend on the parameters set out by your instructor.

## Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography provides citations and brief summaries of research on a topic. Sometimes, you will be asked to evaluate the sources as a part of your annotations.

## Case Study

A case study asks you to analyze the details of a particular problem or experience, usually in a real-world context. You may need to answer questions, analyze data, and compare or propose solutions.