

# Understanding the Structure of an Essay

Week 2

# Chapter 8: Reading, Planning, and Organizing Essays

**In this chapter, you will learn how to:**

**Goal 1**

**Understand the purpose of an essay**

**Goal 2**

**Read essays effectively**

**Goal 3**

**Express your ideas in essay form**

**Goal 4**

**Choose a topic**

# Chapter 8: Reading, Planning, and Organizing Essays

**In this chapter, you will learn how to:**

**Goal 5**

**Generate ideas about your topic**

**Goal 6**

**Consider audience, purpose, and tone**

**Goal 7**

**Write a thesis statement**

**Goal 8**

**Plan and organize your essay**

# Glossary: Recognizing the Essay

- body paragraphs
- conclusion
- concrete words
- controlling idea
- details
- Introduction
- thesis statement
- title
- topic sentence

# Glossary: Recognizing the Essay

- body paragraphs  
the paragraphs after the introduction of an essay that explain and support the thesis statement
- conclusion  
the last paragraph of an essay that brings the essay to a close
- concrete words  
words that refer to things you can see, hear, touch, smell, or taste
- controlling idea  
the main point of an essay; the author's opinion on the topic of the essay
- details  
sentences that support the topic sentence in a paragraph
- introduction  
the first paragraph of an essay that introduces the subject and hooks the reader interest
- thesis statement  
a sentence in the introduction of an essay that expresses the controlling idea of the essay
- title  
a brief phrase that hints at the subject, purpose, or focus of an essay
- topic sentence  
usually the first sentence of a paragraph; a topic sentence consists of a limited topic and the writer's opinion—the controlling idea—about that topic

# Glossary: Recognizing Types of Writing

- creative writing

*Creative writing* is any form of writing which is written with the creativity of mind: fiction writing, poetry writing, creative nonfiction writing and more. The purpose is to express something, whether it be feelings, thoughts, or emotions.

- fiction

*Fiction* is the class of literature comprising works of imaginative narration, especially in prose form.

- non-fiction

*Non-fiction* is the branch of literature comprising works of narrative prose dealing with or offering opinions or conjectures upon facts and reality, including biography, history, and the essay

- prose

*Prose* is the ordinary form of written or spoken language (the opposite of poetry)