INTRODUCTION

Let's review what you need to know in order to do well on the essay writing section of the AP Exam. On the AP Exam, you will be required to write a well-organized essay of at least 200 words in length on a specific topic. Although quality is better than quantity, the essay must be at least 200 words. Your essay will be evaluated for its ideas/content, organization, grammatical accuracy, vocabulary, and mechanics, including accurate punctuation, precise spelling, accents, and tildes. You will have about 45 minutes to brainstorm, organize your ideas, write your essay, and then proofread it. A good way to break down those 45 minutes is:

- 5 minutes – Brainstorming/Organizing
- 35 minutes – Writing
- 5 minutes – Proofreading

You should recall that this is not a creative writing exercise; however, you should be creative when writing. Although you will not have the option of choosing the essay question, you will have the option of selecting what information you will discuss in your essay. So write about things that you like. When you write about things that interest you, your writing will be interesting. You will also:

- Project a positive image about your writing.
- Have a greater flow of ideas.
- Include more vocabulary.
- Be more likely to score better.

There are several types of essays that allow you to present your ideas in a different ways. They also allow you to focus on different aspects of the language. There are five main essay types that you should be familiar with and have proficiency in using in the essay writing section of the AP Exam. These include the following:

- Narrative
- Expository
- Descriptive
- Analytical
- Opinion

Although a good essay incorporates a variety of writing types, it uses only one as a primary writing style. Therefore, the type of writing that you choose when presenting your ideas is very important. Before you begin writing, the first thing you should do is decide which essay type you will use to answer the question.

This activity will discuss these main essay types. Becoming familiar with them now will help you to determine which one to use before you start writing your response. The essay type that will now be discussed is the expository essay. You will also be given a sample essay question prompt along with a short essay sample. Note that the sample is not a full essay – only the introduction of an essay to give you an idea of how you could approach the essay by writing an expository essay. Remember, practice makes perfect!
EXPOSITORY

Expository writing allows the reader to explain facts or present information about a subject. Usually, writers of encyclopedias or textbooks employ this writing style. When you write an expository essay, you set forth information in a factual manner, usually with little commentary about the facts presented. Choose this type of essay if you are very knowledgeable about the subject covered in the essay prompt.

There are some advantages to using this style:

- You generally write only in the present tense.
- You generally use only the indicative mood since you are dealing with facts.

One disadvantage to using this type of writing is that it tends to be very dry. When was the last time you sat down to read the encyclopedia, just for fun? You get my point. However, if you are uncertain about verb tenses or moods, but you know a lot about the subject, you can write a convincing essay in this style. Make sure you incorporate other grammatical elements, though, in order to score well on your essay. Check your agreement between nouns and adjectives, use your pronouns correctly, and be confident with your spelling and accents. Also, since this type of writing does tend to be dry, try being creative with your presentation. Use some descriptive elements when you are presenting your points. Or incorporate a personal experience that illustrates some of the facts you are listing.

Example Question:

La mayor parte de las personas tienen una idea de lo que se necesita para ser un héroe. En un ensayo bien organizado, habla de lo que es un héroe y lo que tal persona hace.

Simple Expository Response:

Como mencionamos anteriormente, la idea de lo que hace un héroe es distinta para diferentes personas. Para los griegos de la antigüedad, un héroe era un narrador de palabras y un hacedor de hechos. Odiseo, Hércules y Aquiles son todos buenos ejemplos de héroes griegos. Para los romanos de la antigüedad, un héroe era alguien muy valiente que peleaba para defender y servir fielmente a su país. Julio César y Augusto César son dos buenos ejemplos de héroes romanos. En tiempos modernos, un héroe es alguien que juega deportes muy bien o también alguien que ha filmado grandes películas. Kobe Bryant, George Clooney y Brett Favre son todos ejemplos de héroes modernos.

CONCLUSION

Different essay types utilize different aspects of the Spanish language. Your choice of an essay type will determine what aspects of the Spanish language you will emphasize. What type of essay you will write should be the first thing you decide before you start writing a word of your essay. In this Print Tutorial, you learned that expository writing emphasizes your knowledge of facts on a number of different topics, especially the topic of the essay prompt.
Although you will be emphasizing a certain aspect of Spanish depending on your choice of essay type to use, you can use elements of all of the different types of writing in your essay. In fact, the best essays have one main style, but they incorporate elements of several writing styles.

Above all, remember that the best essays are well thought out, organized, grammatically correct, demonstrate a wide range of vocabulary, and utilize correct spelling and accents.

Quality is more important than quantity, so choose the essay type that you feel the most comfortable with and that will help you showcase your strengths.

Last but not least, have fun with your writing. If you have fun writing your essay, the AP Exam readers will probably have fun reading it. And you’ll be more likely to receive a high score.

¡Buena suerte!