

# The Process Analysis Essay

The Process Analysis Essay is one that explains the steps or sequence involved in doing something. Self-help books, airline emergency instructions and posters on the Heimlich posted in restaurants are all examples of process analysis.

## There are two types of Process Analysis Essays:

1. Directional: Simply, reading the directions on the back of a box of macaroni and cheese.
2. Informational: The process in which something happens as in how the core of a nuclear reactor melts down.

## Strategies for writing a Process Analysis Essay:

1. The introductory paragraph should state clearly what it is the writer is going to explain how to do. This is the thesis of the essay. It should reflect the writer's attitude about the process, not just an announcement of the subject.
2. The process should be explained one step at a time in logical, spatial, chronological or emphatic order.
3. The essay is written with the audience in mind. The verbiage and process should reflect the knowledge level of the audience.
4. Help is provided in the use of warnings of difficult processes, transitional words steer the reader in logical course.
5. An appropriate tone is set for the essay. For example, an essay on the embalming of a human body is not flippant or comical.
6. There should be a strong and effective introduction and conclusion.

## For Instance:

*"The first step in writing letters is to get over the guilt of not writing. You don't owe anybody a letter. Letters are a gift. The burning shame you feel when you see unanswered mail makes it harder to pick up a pen and makes for a cheerless letter when you finally do. 'I feel bad about not writing, but I've been so busy, etc.' Skip this.*  
Garrison Keilor from *How to write a Personal Letter*.