



Writing Bridging Unit 2020

As a student of English Literature writing clearly and persuasively about what you read will be the key to your success. Read these short definitions of **the essay**:

- Essay is derived from the French word *essayer*, which means ‘to attempt’ or ‘to try’.
- A short form of literary composition based on a single subject matter, and often gives the personal opinion of the author.
- A famous English essayist, Aldous Huxley defines essays as, “A literary device for saying almost everything about almost anything.” (Aldous Huxley, novelist and essay writer)
- A short piece of writing on a particular subject. Oxford English Dictionary
- A scholarly work in writing that provides the author’s personal argument.
- A short piece of writing on a particular subject, especially one done by students as part of the work for a course.
- Essays are how we speak to one another in print — caroming thoughts not merely in order to convey a certain packet of information, but with a special edge or bounce of personal character in a kind of public letter. (Edward Hoagland, Introduction, *The Best American Essays*: 1999)

Read some essays online by following the links below:

The ideas below are just suggestions to get you started. If while browsing these you spot another essay title that intrigues you, read it instead.

1. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “Beware Of Feminist Lite” From *We Should All Be Feminists*

<https://ideas.ted.com/Beware-Of-Feminism-Lite>

2. Zavi Kang Engles: *My Mother’s Tongue*

<https://therumpus.net/2019/04/My-Mothers-Tongue/>

3. George Orwell: *Politics of the English Language*

https://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e_polit

4. Zadie Smith: Some Notes On Atunement

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/12/17/some-notes-on-attunement>

Now have a go yourself. Choose a topic that interests you (it can be on literally anything) and have a go at writing an essay exploring your thoughts on this topic.