

An exploratory essay introduces a current problem or question that people disagree on and shows the different points of view that exist. The purpose of an exploratory essay is to remain unbiased by showing current perspectives on the issue instead of persuading readers to choose one viewpoint over another. A writer may conclude the essay by asking readers to make their own decisions on issues on using the information given in the essay.

### Introduction

- Discuss what has already been said about the issue (e.g., what is already known historically, statistics, potential effects)
- Identify the important people or groups of people connected to the issue
- Explain why the issue is both a present and future concern for the people or groups of people you have identified
- Organize the essay around questions the issue raises instead of writing a clear thesis in the introduction. A delayed (implied) thesis may be placed near the end of the paper, but it does not create a persuasive stance. For example, in a news article, writers write about others' views without stating their own. **Always check the instructor's assignment guidelines regarding a thesis.**

### Body Paragraphs

- Explain the views that key individuals or groups have come up with, recent actions that have taken place, and any intentions key people have shown

- Show both sides of **three or four** important sides of the issue that others have already said
- When using supporting evidence, include in-text citations for paraphrases or direct quotations, and list sources, including interviews, on a works cited page

## Conclusion

- Without repeating sentences word-for-word, summarize the results or future results of the recent actions and beliefs you uncovered in the body of the paper
- Reflect on how the ideas in the paper can help people understand both sides of the issue
- Encourage readers to formulate their own decisions and conclusion