**Essay Notes:**

A composition which strives to **MAKE A POINT!** (Main point = thesis). **Thesis** can be explicit (overtly stated) or implicit (implied). All aspects of composition help convey this point. Composition remains unified (on topic).

Essays are either **formal** or **informal** in tone (attitude towards the subject) – dependent upon the essay’s purpose.  
 1. Formal – written in Standard English: no “I,” no “you,” no contractions, abbreviations or colloquialisms  
 most often for literary analysis… expository, persuasive writing  
 2. Informal – informal, often colloquial language used, uses “I,” in letters: uses “you”  
 most often for personal essays… texting, emails, posts

**Methods of Development:**  
 1. Descriptive – describes a person, place, thing or event… in detail, in order to make a point about person/it  
 2. Expository – uses examples to explain a point  
 3. Persuasive – uses argument (reasoning) and/or persuasion (emotion) to argue for or against a specific point  
 4. Narrative – tells a story or uses a series of stories to make a point  
 5. Compare/Contrast – similarities and/or differences of two things; often used to evaluate  
 6. Analogy – type of comparison where something concrete is used to explain something complex  
 7. Classification… Cause & Effect… Definition…

**Introductory Techniques:** Strategies used to capture a reader’s interest, identify subject/topic of essay, set tone of essay, suggest or state thesis of essay  
 1. State the central theme or topic; define it  
 2. Identify the significance of the subject  
 3. Provide background information  
 4. Pose a question  
 5. Use a figurative device (can become the motif)  
 6. Use a rhetorical device  
 7. Use imagery  
 8. Present an interesting or shocking statistic or fact or statement, or a puzzling or commonplace statement  
 9. Use a quotation  
 10. Use an allusion  
 11. Use an anecdote, or begin story (if writing a narrative essay)  
 12. Present a striking comparison or contrast

**Closing Techniques:** End strong, and choose a strategy that fulfills the purpose of the essay  
 1. Restate the central idea or theme, summarize main points  
 2. Reflect on the significance of the subject  
 3. Reference motif, opening device, title, quotation, rhetorical or figurative device  
 4. Draw a conclusion or make a prediction (without being pedantic)  
 5. Signal conclusion with transition  
 6. Climax and/or conclusion of story  
 7. Use a summarizing quotation

**Transitions:** Provide coherence/order  
 1. Standard Transitions  
 2. Echo Transitions  
 3. Parallel Structure

**Style:** **How** an author effectively conveys the main point and reinforces the content. Can use devices such as:

**Rhetorical Devices** – techniques used to make writing/communicating more effective, more engaging and interesting… sound better

**Figurative Devices** – devices that suggest “figurative” (non-literal) meaning

**Rhetorical Devices:**

Diction  
Syntax  
Colloquialisms  
Slang  
Jargon  
Archaisms  
Euphemisms  
Parallelism  
Paragraph structuring  
Spacing  
Font  
Capitalization  
Punctuation  
Irony  
Satire  
Sarcasm  
Transitions  
Allusion  
Apostrophe  
Hyperbole  
Litotes  
Tone  
Emphasis  
Motif  
Repetition  
Questions  
Contrast  
Comparison  
Analogy  
Assonance  
Consonance  
Alliteration  
Onomatopoeia  
Auditory imagery  
Humour

**Figurative Devices:**

Metaphor  
Simile  
Personification  
Hyperbole  
Litotes  
Paradox  
Oxymoron  
Juxtaposition  
Irony  
Reification  
Metonymy  
Synecdoche  
Analogy