# Essay Format for German 101

## Steps:

Step 1: Look at the **topic(s)** - lesen Sie das Aufsatzthema/die Aufsatzthemen. If more than one topic is given, choose the one that seems most interesting and feasible to you.

Step 2: **Leaf through** the current and previous chapter, and your notes. **Spend 15 minutes** noting vocabulary and expressions you think you may use in your essay. See **Section 1** below. You MUST **use at least 10 of these** in your essay!

Step 3: Using ONLY your notes from Step 2, **write for 20 minutes without stopping**. Set a timer. Do NOT use a dictionary or any other sources during this time. **Don't worry about mistakes** for now!! Use English words or phrases as needed so you can keep going, but **think and write in German as much as you can**!

Step 4: **Refine your essay.** Do this well, but don't agonize. Spend an hour or less. Look up what you need to, but **if in doubt, rephrase and/or simplify!** The less you look up, the better.

* Finish writing ☺ Then:
* Highlight in **bold** the **words/phrases from Section 1** that you ended up using. **You must use at least 10 of them!**
* Move sentences around so the **ideas flow logically/naturally**. Group them into **logical paragraphs**. This is essential for a content/organization (flow) grade of A or A-. But: No need for "thesis statements" etc. in short German essays ☺
* Check **systematically** for errors. Checking for **one thing at a time** is most effective. Ideas, roughly in order of importance: 1. Is everything *clear*? Everything should be **immediately** clear to you upon re-reading: the words and phrases should "feel right." 2. Check *verb position* 3. Check *verb forms* and *conjugation* 4. Make sure all *nouns* (and *only* the nouns) are *capitalized* 5. Look for *typos* (spelling needn't be perfect, but should not be careless!) 6. Check *articles* and *cases* 7. Check noun *plurals* 8. Look through your essay one more time for "other" errors, if you have time.
* **Write down anything you look up WHILE YOU WRITE - see Sections 3 & 5 below!**

Step 5: (No more than 15 minutes!) Write a "**reflection**" on your essay. See **Section 6** below!

Step 6: Write the **Word Count** and the **Academic Integrity Statement** - see **Section 7** below!

## Essay format (please use the indicated section numbers!):

**Section 1: Vocabulary and useful phrases:** Spend **15 minutes** leafing through the book and writing down vocabulary and useful phrases for this essay from the current (& recent) chapter(s), from class, and from any other sources (*Lola rennt* or Janosch, your AMDs, prior German classes etc.). **Use headings to indicate the sources** (e.g. "Kapitel 3"; "Kapitel 2"; "Notes from class"; "Notes from Kap. 3 video lecture"; "Watching *Dark* for AMD 1." *Other possibilities*: "Listening to Cro compulsively"; "Watching *Babylon Berlin* for fun"; "My grandmother"; "Exchange student at my school/home"; "Trip to Austria"; **etc.**).

**Section 2: Your essay. Add to Sections 3 & 5 WHILE YOU WRITE**

**Section 3: Dictionary use:** Provide a German-English table of words/phrases you looked up. Include the source. *Recommended online dictionaries*: **PONS, dict.cc & Linguee** (& maybe LEO or BEOLINGUS). If you did **not** look anything up (great!), write "N/A" for this section. E.g.:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SPAM® | SPAM® | Linguee |
| rabbit | das Kaninchen | dict.cc |
| no longer | nicht mehr | Linguee |
| braces | die Zahnklammer | PONS |

**Section 4: Help received:** List anything a teacher or more advanced speaker helped you with (say who it was). ***You may list up to 4 things.*** *If you list more, explain (e.g. "I asked about these four things, but she noticed these two others: …")* If no one helped you, write "N/A."

**Section 5:** Describe any **online translator use (German-English or English German!)**, as follows:

* If you did NOT use a translator (*you shouldn't need to!*), write: "I did not use an online translator German-English or English German!"
* If you DID use a translator, proceed as follows:
* Name the translator you used (e.g. Google Translate, DeepL)
	+ If the translator **produced** the phrase/sentence, **write the English phrase you entered AND everything you learned from the translation**. Include vocabulary you did not know or had forgotten, verb forms, word order, genders, cases, etc. **The more you can explain, the more your instructor will count the passage as *your* work** (and not the online translator's) **when grading the essay.**
	+ If you used the translator to **check** your German, write "**Checked DE**," "**Checked ED**" or "**Checked DE/ED**." **List and explain any corrections you made** (including spelling, noun genders etc.). If no corrections were made, use a smiley, e.g. "Checked DE :)"
		- DE: you entered **your** German to see if the English made sense; ED: you entered English to see if the result is the same as **your** German; DE/ED: you checked both directions.
		- **If you checked only parts of your essay** in this way, indicate the parts you checked, e.g. by underlining them.
* If Google suggested **spelling corrections** and you accepted them (great!), provide a rough estimate of how many errors it helped you with. If Google (or another source) suggested non-spelling corrections, use footnotes to cite/explain these!

**Section 6: Reflection:** Spend **no more than 15 minutes** writing a reflection on your essay. Write **at least 80-100 words**. Write in **English or Denglisch**. Ideas for what to include:

* Extra information that will help your instructor better understand what you wrote
* Things you learned from writing the essay, or that you feel you understand better now
* What it felt like to write the essay, e.g. surprise at how easy or how hard it was to write for 20 minutes without stopping; surprise at how much you were able to say; frustration with linguistic limitations; excitement or anxiety about writing in German
* What parts of the essay did you have difficulty writing? What came easily?
* Are there particular words/phrases/sentences on which you would like feedback ("Is \_\_\_\_ correct? I was trying to say\_\_\_\_.")
* **If you worked on a sentence for a long time**, describe the evolution of the sentence: corrections/changes you made, decisions about verb position, clauses you combined etc.

**Section 7:** **Word Count** and **Academic Integrity Statement:** Provide a Word Count ("***Wortzahl***"). Then write the following: "This essay is my own work. All of my sources are listed in Sections 1-6 above."

* Note: We expect you to look up the **genders and plurals of nouns**, and the **conjugation patterns of verbs** you use in your essay. **NO** need to cite sources for this (except as described in **Section 5** above).
* Note: Your instructor may write "Source?" next to possible *minor* citation omissions. Just address any such notes by clarifications in your rewrite and don't worry.