

## Essay Format for German 102

### Steps:

STEP 0: Look at [this sample essay](#) to get an overview of what your essay should look like [the example is from German 101]. Then look at the instructions below in detail.

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: **Expand, refine and finish 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 ☺** For **Aufsatz 1**, we are looking for you to write roughly **190-210 words**. For **Aufsatz 2**, we are looking for you to write roughly **210-240 words**. Please do not write more than 300 words for Aufsatz 1 or 2. 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:
  - a. Is everything *clear*? Everything should be **immediately** clear to you upon re-reading: the words and phrases should "feel right."
  - b. Check *verb position*
  - c. Check *verb forms and conjugation*
  - d. Make sure all *nouns* (and *only* the nouns) are *capitalized*
  - e. Look for *typos* (spelling needn't be perfect, but should not be careless!)
  - f. Check *articles* and *cases*
  - g. Check noun *plurals*
  - h. 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, *Almanya* or Känguru, your AMDs, prior German classes etc.). **Use headings to indicate the sources** (e.g. "Kapitel 8"; "Kapitel 7"; "Notes from class"; "Notes from Kap. 8 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. You may NOT ask anyone to proofread your essay for you [It IS OK for an instructor or friend to proofread your test essay drafts!]. 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.