

How to Add More Detail to Your Essay



Imagine this cake with no icing, no chocolate drips, and no fancy flowers or other decorations. Would it taste as good? Would it look as beautiful? Much like cakes, the details and additions to an essay are what make it more attractive. They are what make people interested in what you are writing.

So, how can you include the “icing and decorations” that make your essay worth reading?



Add **descriptions**

What are some ideas or points in your essay that you can describe deeper? Is there anything you can explain how it looks, tastes, feels like, smells like, or sounds like?

Before adding descriptions	After adding descriptions
“I always baked cakes at grandma’s house when I would visit on the weekends.”	“The cake towered four stacks high, layered with rich chocolate frosting and vanilla drizzle. I could smell the fresh strawberries that were on top from all the way upstairs. The sound of the oven timer going off when the cake was ready will always make me think of baking at grandma’s house.”



Add **examples**

What are some additional examples and details about them that you could provide to help add length and detail to your paragraphs? For example:

Before adding examples	After adding examples
“There are lots of cupcake flavors to choose from at a bakery or grocery store.”	“Chocolate and vanilla cupcakes are delicious, but my favorite cupcake is red velvet. The batter is dark red, but it tastes mostly like chocolate. These cupcakes are popular for Valentine’s Day celebrations.”



Add **explanations**

After you include a fact or quotation from a source, add in a sentence that explains how it connects to your main idea for the paragraph and thesis statement overall. Ask yourself: what does this information mean? Why is it important to know? How is the reader supposed to feel or react after reading the information you just shared?

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Before adding explanations	After adding explanations
<p>"I miss a lot of things about being younger, but I especially get sad thinking about Christmas without mine and my mom's famous peppermint cookies."</p> <p>Or</p> <p>"No! This can't be true! I've gone to this bakery every Saturday morning for the last 25 years!"</p>	<p>"This passage shows how baking Christmas cookies when she was younger was the main character's favorite memory with her mom."</p> <p>Or</p> <p>"This quote shares important information to help the reader better understand why the character is so upset about the bakery closing down."</p>



Add **comparisons or analogies**

Are there any points that you can expand on by comparing the point to something else? After you state a fact or share information from a source, you could add sentence after with that information.

Before adding comparisons or analogies	After adding comparisons or analogies
<p>"Grandma's kitchen smells good."</p>	<p>"Grandma's kitchen was like a bakery, filled with scents of freshly baked pies and cookies."</p>

Of course, the type of essay and the topic will determine which of these suggestions will work for adding in details, but every essay, no matter the topic, can be made longer, more interesting and more full by adding in some additional "icing on the cake."