Informal Essays vs. Formal Essays

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|  | Formal Essay | Informal Essay |
| Point of view | 3rd person | First person – I, We, You, Us |
| Tone | Objective, detached | Conversational – bring the reader in |
| Content | Based on analysis and research | Opinion, thoughts, personal experiences |
| Thesis | Explicitly stated in last sentence of first paragraph | Can be found anywhere – can be implied |
| Purpose | Prompt reader to think about a topic in a particular way | Sway someone to your side – engage the reader |
| Style | Academic – formal language, elevated diction | Not so formal – use some slang – sentence fragments |