



Unit 6 — The Non-Fiction Essay

Track E · Klasse 12 · Niveau E (Basisfach / Leistungsfach)

Learning objectives

- *I can read a contemporary non-fiction essay and identify thesis, supporting moves, and stylistic register.*
- *I can use vocabulary of essayistic prose (premise, claim, qualification, anecdote-as-argument, the moral turn).*
- *I can write a 400-word non-fiction essay of my own with a clear thesis and one anecdote-as-argument.*

Lead-in

Mr. Yilmaz handed out a 1,200-word non-fiction essay by Zadie Smith — *Speaking in Tongues* (2009). The class spent the lesson learning to track the essay's central move: an anecdote that becomes an argument, an argument that opens onto a moral turn, a moral turn that returns to the anecdote. Maja wrote in the margin: *the essay walks like a small animal that knows the route.*

Practise

- Match: anecdote-as-argument → small story doing argumentative work; moral turn → the essay's ethical shift; elliptical close → unfinished but resonant ending.
- T or F: the essayist's *I* is the same as the fiction-writer's narrator; non-fiction essays always open with the thesis.
- Build 3 sentences using essayistic-prose vocabulary on Smith's opening.

Your turn

Non-fiction essay (your own), 400 words. Use the *anecdote-as-argument* move: open with a small personal scene, develop into an argument by paragraph 3, hit a moral turn by paragraph 5, return to the scene at the close. Use 4 academic discourse markers + 2 hedges + 1 cleft.

Reflect

- I can identify thesis, supporting moves, and stylistic register in a non-fiction essay.
- I can use 6+ essayistic-prose terms.
- I can write a 400-word non-fiction essay with anecdote-as-argument and moral turn.