Basic Plots of the Essay

Plot 1: The Review
- The review begins with the work of others and develops a set of ideas and narratives that depart from that work.

Plot 2: The Ramble/A Walk through the Mind
- The ramble begins with a bit of personal experience and develops a set of ideas and narratives that depart from that experience.
- Example: Chris Wright, “I, Possum”; anything by Montaigne.

Plot 3: The Meditation
- The meditation begins with an abstract idea or metaphor and relates it to personal experience, other texts, and concrete objects.

Plot 4: The List
- The list begins with a series of objects, stories, or ideas and unifies them through some persistent idea or pattern.
- Example: Sei Shonagon, “Hateful Things”.