

WRITING MODES:

THE FOUR PURPOSES OF WRITING

Narration (Narrative Writing): (use Narrative Criteria & Highlighting sheet for this mode)

Narration is storytelling. In many ways it is the easiest kind of writing because it comes so naturally to most people. Practically everyone enjoys telling and hearing stories. Narratives usually progress chronologically, and must have a clear beginning, middle and end.

Examples:

- IMAGINATIVE stories you create/are original - short stories, novels, plays, vignettes (works of FICTION- that can be dramatic, suspenseful, humorous, fantasy, & more)
- PERSONAL NARRATIVE (purpose to tell a tale, summarize or record events, or create a story based on experience - your own or someone else's), anecdotes, and biographies (about other people)

Description (Descriptive Writing):

Think of description as painting a picture with words. Of course, when you use words, you can paint more than what you see, but also what you feel, hear, smell and taste. The idea of description is to make the thing described seem real to your reader's imagination. Not much writing is purely descriptive; writers typically weave description into longer narrative & even expository & persuasive works.

Examples: poetry, certain types of advertising, character sketches, and photograph captions - OFTEN DESCRIPTIVE WRITING IS COMBINED WITH NARRATIVE, EXPOSITORY & PERSUASIVE, & NOT A SEPARATE MODE, AS WE EXPECT ALL WRITING TO BE DESCRIPTIVE IN SOME WAY.

Exposition (Expository & Informative Writing): (use Expository Criteria sheet)

Exposition is writing that explains, informs, clarifies, defines, or instructs. It is a practical kind of writing (the kind you are reading right now!).

Examples:

- informative essays, literary essays/analysis, research papers (Process Analysis/How-To [avoiding just a list - it's an essay], Definition essay [What is love? What is a hero?], Cause & Effect [What causes poverty in U.S.?], Problem-Solution [How can bullying be prevented?], Comparison/Contrast [reading book vs. listening to audio of book], articles [opinion or otherwise])
- encyclopedia entries, news reports, letters, and instruction manuals

Persuasion (Persuasive/Argumentative Writing): THERE ARE A FEW DIFFERENCES BTW. PER. & ARG. WRITING

Persuasive writing seeks to convince the reader of a particular position or opinion. Persuasive writing is in many ways the most difficult to do well because it requires knowledge of the subject, strong convictions, logical thinking, and technical skill.

Examples: literary essays/persuasive, editorials/opinion article (Op-Ed), rants, letters, advertisements, and book, music or movie reviews

What Is the Difference Between Persuasive and Argumentative Writing?

Persuasive Writing	Argumentative Writing
Starting Point: Identify your topic and choose your side.	Starting Point: Identify your topic, research your topic, and decide which side to support.
Purpose: Get the reader to agree with your opinion.	Purpose: Get the reader to recognize your side of the argument is valid.
Techniques: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Combines facts with emotions to convince the reader that the author is "right" 2. Emotion-based 3. Ignores counter claims 4. Presents only ideas that help establish a position 5. Only presents only one side: the author's side 6. Makes claims without evidence 	Techniques: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offers facts, reasons, and evidence to show the author has valid points 2. Logic-based 3. Acknowledges the opposing claims 4. May compare ideas to establish a position 5. Presents multiple sides but it is clear which is the author's side 6. Always provides evidence with claims
Tone: The tone is emotionally charged and more aggressive.	Tone: There is a calmer tone of just trying to get the reader to acknowledge the author's side is worthy of consideration.