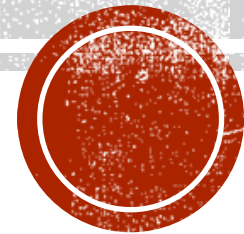



Mrs. C talks about

TYPES OF WRITING

**Purpose Matters: Descriptive, Narrative, Expository, and
Persuasive Writing Overview**





The FOUR TYPES
— OF —
WRITING:
EXPOSITORY,
PERSUASIVE,
DESCRIPTIVE,
AND NARRATIVE

**THE 4 BASIC
TYPES OF
WRITING**

- **descriptive**
- **narrative**
- **expository**
- **persuasive**

it depends...



WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

- What is your WHY?—what is your intent in writing?
- How do you decide?
- Audience

- Every single type of writing has *some kind* of opinion.

- Even when something seems factual, consider the source.



DESCRIPTIVE: TO DESCRIBE / SENSORY

Away from Gravity's Hold or Kayaking on Lake Maloya

The lake is not entirely awake; a gentle ripple of mirrors swims along its surface. My paddle pushes forward at odd moments. Now it lays quietly across my legs. The sun is a fuzzy ball of heat at the place where my paddle drips. Drops converge like gelled fruit ready for canning—two into one slide along the edge, skaters melding, heavy together to drop into the v-wake of my kayak and make ever-increasing circles along the boat while I glide past. Endless drops of nesting Russian dolls. The water seeks itself, the paddle but a small assist away from gravity's hold.

Thoughts settle like a slow fog, and the muscles and weight of mother-and-wife hood release and smooth, lengthening. Words, but no pencil or paper, come across the lake. Unzipping a pocket, a little anxious to record things before they slip away, I grab my phone. Before I can begin, I see something floating by. It has my face. I scramble with the paddle and almost sink it, already thinking about the DMV and the hassle. Then logic tells me to propel myself gently toward it. I am surprised that drivers' licenses float so well. I grasp it off the surface, safe.



NARRATIVE: TO TELL A STORY

The Day My Neighborhood Went Crazy

Craters cover the yard, and the only color that can be seen is the charred black of ash that coats our neighborhood war zone. How could a simple yard tool lead to a miniscule version of WW3? It all started the day my neighbor Frank asked to borrow my weed whacker. I told him to simply have it back by Wednesday when I would need it to clean my grandmother's lawn. I didn't have it on Wednesday afternoon, so I went over to pick it up. When I knocked, Frank stumbled through the door. He looked like a monkey was living with him: his hair was puffed up, his face had peach fuzz stubble, and his cloths were covered in bright red ketchup stains.

"Uh, hey, Frank I came to get my weed whacker," I explained.

"Ge'dof my porch ya muther luvin' hippie!" He screamed hoarsely, muttering several vague profanities.

"Sides I ain't got yur stupid weed whacker."



EXPOSITORY: TO INFORM/EXPLAIN/TEACH

Ode to My Bow

I slowly pull the string back to my cheek and settle the pin on the grizzly's chest. As I exhale, my finger gently squeezes the release... *Whoosh!* The arrow seems suspended in mid air, slowly rotating... *Thump!* The bear stumbles. *Or so I imagine.* Every time I shoot my bow, no matter the distance or position, I imagine an actual hunting scenario. Will I be hunting black bears in Saskatchewan or bull moose in the Yukon? Even though I can only shoot to thirty yards and pull forty-six pounds, I imagine myself on wild adventures shooting mountain goats on near vertical cliffs or stalking elk in alpine timber.

On most days, my favorite thing to do is shoot my bow. As I draw, I can feel the power in its limbs waiting to be unleashed. I feel the grip slip comfortably into my hand, and my eye easily penetrates through the back peep to focus on the glowing green dot. After a practice session, I love cleaning my arrows and making sure my bow is in prime condition. In fact, my bow is probably the most expensive and well cared for thing I own. Whenever I fiddle with it, it's like we're having a conversation about future seasons and hunts that wait for us. My bow listens well, and whenever I put it away, I want to get it back out as soon as I can. I would probably sleep with it if I could, but it's not very soft.



PERSUASIVE: TO CONVINCE / CALL TO ACTION

Freedom: The Quality that Makes America Great

Faboom!!! chikachikachikachika! Machine guns rattle and artillery blasts. Shouts and screams echo across the battlefield. Why would men willingly fight and die for their country? The answer is one word: *freedom*.

Freedom has been the driving influence of almost all people and nations throughout history, and no nation has been more freedom-oriented than the United States of America. The United States has fought many wars for freedom in its glorious history: the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. However, America is also admirable because it doesn't just fight for itself. Americans fought in World War I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, all for the freedom of others.

One of the best things about America is the God-given rights that are preserved and protected in the Constitution. In no other country in the world are people allowed the freedoms guaranteed to American citizens. Where else are people as free to take entrepreneurial risks and reap the benefits of capitalism? In America, people have the freedom to choose their profession and let their work ethic and luck take them wherever they decide. The list of benefits just goes on and on. The right to bear arms, the freedom of speech, and the freedom of religion are just a few of these.



WAYS TO WRITE: THERE'S A GA-GILLION!

- **Fiction, NonFiction? Mixed?**
- **Biography, Autobiography, Memoir**
- **Essay**
- **News Article**
- **Personal Narrative**
- **Self-Help**
- **Textbook**
- **Speech**
- **Dictionary, Almanac, etc.**
- **Children's Literature**
- **Folklore**
- **Fantasy, Science Fiction**
- **Poetry**
- **Prose**
- **Mystery, Suspense**
- **Journal**
- **Travelogue**
- **Present Research**
- **Novel**
- **Short Story**
- **Play**
- **Humor**
- **Satire**



FINAL THOUGHTS

- Often your writing will mix types and sometimes genres.
- How you choose to write will depend on your purpose and your audience.
- Remember, all strong writing incorporates 6+ traits!

