

# Major forms of Writing

## Narrative

The purpose of a narrative is to entertain. The story usually consists of a plot, characters and setting. Events usually take place in sequence. Word choice, voice, ideas and sentence fluency bring narrative writing to life.

**Examples:** a story, fable, fairy tale, poem, play, historical biography.

## Personal Narrative

The purpose of a personal narrative is to share something that happened to you and how you feel about it (life experiences). It is a familiar form of writing to most students.

**Examples:** stories, journals

## Informational/Expository/Procedural

The purpose of this type of text is to explain, instruct and provide facts. Ideas and organization are important.

**Examples:** recipes, explain how a peanut butter sandwich is made or tell what causes seasons.

## Persuasive

The purpose of a persuasive text is to argue or persuade. The author tries to convince the reader to take a specific action or adopt a particular belief. Voice is important.

**Examples:** advertisements, letters to the editor, debates

### **Descriptive**

The purpose of descriptive writing allows the reader to envision the person, place or things being described. It is filled with details. The reader can hear, feel, smell and or taste what is being described.

**Examples:** journals, memoirs, articles

### **Compare and Contrast**

The purpose of a compare and contrast text is to become aware of similarities and differences.

**Examples:** list the differences and similarities of cats and dogs, peanut butter and jelly etc.

### **Recount**

The purpose of a recount is to retell or reflect on events.

**Examples:** journals, diaries, experience stories, newspaper articles.

### **Report**

The purpose of a report is to describe a class of things and to tell about a topic. It contains information drawn from more than one source. It may provide graphics to clarify information and add interest. It includes a bibliography.

**Examples:** projects (a report on a horse, a report on life in the Caribbean).

### **Friendly Letter**

The purpose of a friendly letter is to communicate with someone.

**Examples:** letters or notes to friends or family, postcards.