

TYPES OF WRITING

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There are four fundamental sorts of writing, typically referred to as “**writing styles.**” These patterns are Expository, Persuasive, Narrative, and Descriptive. Each style serves a precise purpose, such as explaining how some thing works or getting people to agree with a factor of view. The audience and the motive determine which writing fashion is used.

1. Expository

Expository writing explains a particular subject to its readers. It focuses on specific topics and includes relevant facts, figures, and descriptions. It usually describes a process, and information is ordered logically and sequentially. It usually does not include the writer’s opinions or any effort to convince the reader of a certain position on the information. This is one of the most common styles and is used in:

- Textbooks
- How-to books and articles
- Cookbooks
- News stories
- Business writing
- Technical writing
- Scientific writing

2. Persuasive

Persuasive writing contains the biases and opinions of the writer. It also includes justifications, reasons, and arguments in an effort to convince the reader to agree with

the writer's opinion, accept an idea, or take an action. This writing is used in:

- Opinion columns
- Editorial pieces
- Advertisements and commercials
- Product reviews
- Sales presentations
- Speeches
- Recommendations and cover letters

3. Narrative

Narrative writing is used when telling a story, which can be fact or fiction. This is one of the most versatile styles because it allows writers to create from imagination. In this type of writing the story is central, not the facts. Narrative includes characters and dialogue, tells a story, and has a logical beginning, middle, and end. This style is most often used in:

- Novels
- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Memoirs
- Biographies

4. Descriptive

Descriptive writing is similar to expository. It explains something to the reader, but it does so with very descriptive language that uses all five senses (sight, sound, taste, touch, smell) to create a vivid image for the reader. Descriptive writing is often personal and subjective while expository writing is typically impersonal or distant. This style is often used in:

- Poetry
- Diaries
- Journals
- Love letters
- Screenplays

These four patterns are related to the motive of writing. However, style goes past purpose. It is also described by means of phrase choice, pacing, structure, voice, and tone.

Word choice is about precision and brevity. Precision is choosing specific words that convey meaning, create imagery, evoke emotion and provoke a response. Conciseness does not mean writing short sentences (unless that is a stylistic choice). This means using only necessary words and eliminating unnecessary flowery, repetitive, complex and confusing writing.

Sentence structure is the way words and ideas are arranged. Are the words logical and understandable? Are the big ideas first to grab attention, or later to build momentum and suspense? Are the sentences short, long, or just right? Is the article fluent and interesting?

Sentence flow refers to the rhythm created with techniques such as alliteration, consonance, multi-syllabic words, metaphor, simile, personification, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, and symbolism.

Voice is the perspective in which the information is shared. It is how readers hear the words. Do they hear a formal, objective voice (i.e. the authority of a university or corporate leader) or do they hear the more personal voice of the writer? Voice can also refer to perspective, such as writing in the first or third person.

Tone reflects the writer's personal style. For instance, is the writing ornate with long, complex sentences? Is it packed with metaphors and imagery? Is it straightforward, with sparse prose and simple sentences? Perhaps it's conversational rather than

formal? Emotional or logical? Serious rather than humorous?

Writing style develops with time as a writer evolves, experiments, and takes on new projects. Great writers become aware of their natural style and use it often, but they also intentionally practice writing in other styles to become more versatile.

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