

The FOUR TYPES

— OF —
WRITING:

EXPOSITORY,
PERSUASIVE,
DESCRIPTIVE,
AND NARRATIVE



EXPOSITORY

KEY POINTS:

- Usually explains something in a process.
- Is often equipped with facts and figures.
- Is usually in a logical order and sequence.

When You Would Use Expository Writing:

- Textbook writing.
- How-to articles.
- Recipes.
- News stories (not including opinion or editorial pieces).
- Business, technical, or scientific writing.

DESCRIPTIVE

KEY POINTS:

- It is often poetic in nature.
- It describes places, people, events, situations, or locations in a highly-detailed manner.
- The author visualizes what he or she sees, hears, tastes, smells, and feels.

When You Would Use Descriptive Writing:

- Poetry
- Journal or diary writing
- Nature writing
- Descriptive passages in fiction

PERSUASIVE

KEY POINTS:

- Opinion and editorial newspaper pieces.
- Advertisements.
- Reviews (of books, music, movie, restaurants, etc.).
- Letter of recommendation.
- Letter of complaint.
- Cover letters

When You Would Use Persuasive Writing:

- Opinion and editorial newspaper pieces.
- Advertisements.
- Reviews (of books, music, movie, restaurants, etc.).
- Letter of recommendation.
- Letter of complaint.
- Cover letters

NARRATIVE

KEY POINTS:

- A person tells a story or event.
- Has characters and dialogue.
- Has definite and logical beginnings, intervals, and endings.
- Often has situations like actions, motivational events, and disputes or conflicts with their eventual solutions.

When You Would Use Persuasive Writing:

- Novels
- Short stories
- Novellas
- Poetry
- Autobiographies or biographies
- Anecdotes
- Oral histories

CONCLUSION

- These are the four different types of writing that are generally used. There are many sub-types of writing that may fall in any of those categories. A writer must know all these styles in order to identify the purpose of his or her own writing and make sure it's something the audience wants to read.