

Identify Types of Essays

How to use: Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Identify the three main essay types: narrative, persuasive, and expository
- 2 Match the purpose of each essay type to the writer's goal
- 3 Distinguish narrative from persuasive and expository writing using prompt verbs
- 4 Choose the correct essay type for a given writing prompt

MINI LESSON

Writers do not all write for the same reason. Three common essay types each have a different purpose: a narrative essay tells a story, a persuasive essay argues a point, and an expository essay explains a topic. Knowing the type before you write helps you pick the right structure, voice, and details.

Narrative Essay — Tell a Story

- Purpose: entertain the reader by sharing a real or imagined experience.
- Includes characters, a setting, a problem, and a sequence of events.
- Often uses first-person words like "I" and "we" and time order.
- Prompt verbs to look for: tell, describe a time, share a memory, write a story.

Persuasive Essay — Argue a Point

- Purpose: convince the reader to agree with an opinion or take action.
- States a clear claim, then supports it with reasons and evidence.
- Addresses the other side with a counter-argument before the conclusion.
- Prompt verbs to look for: convince, argue, persuade, defend, support.

Expository Essay — Explain a Topic

- Purpose: inform the reader by explaining a topic clearly with facts.
- Uses an introduction, body paragraphs with main ideas, and a summary.
- Stays neutral — no strong opinions and no personal stories.
- Prompt verbs to look for: explain, describe, define, compare, inform.

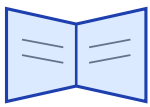
! Tip: read the prompt verbs first. "Tell about" signals narrative, "convince" signals persuasive, and "explain" or "describe" signals expository.

VOCABULARY

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| narrative | An essay that tells a story with characters, setting, and plot to entertain. |
| persuasive | An essay that argues a position and tries to convince the reader using reasons and evidence. |
| expository | An essay that explains a topic using facts, examples, and a neutral voice. |
| purpose | The reason a writer writes — to entertain, convince, or inform. |
| prompt | The question or instruction that tells you what to write about and what type of essay to write. |

Three Types of Essays

Narrative

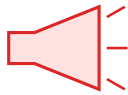


Tells a story

Characters,
setting, plot.

Entertain

Persuasive



Argues a point

Reasons,
evidence, call.

Convince

Expository



Explains facts

Topic, info,
examples.

Inform

Each essay type has a different purpose for the reader.

Choose Your Essay Type

If the prompt asks you to...

Tell about a time
something happened

Write a...

Narrative

Convince a reader
to agree or act

Persuasive

Explain a topic
using facts

Expository

Read the prompt verbs: tell, convince, or explain.

VOCABULARY

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GUIDED PRACTICE — WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

Read the prompt and use at least 6 of the vocabulary words below. Write at least 50 words.

Prompt

Write 2-3 sentences explaining what you have learned. Use at least 6 of the vocabulary words below.

VOCABULARY — USE AT LEAST 6

narrative · persuasive · expository · entertain · convince · inform · purpose · prompt · topic

Write at least 50 words.

EXERCISES — SORT & MATCH

Sort each topic into the correct essay type: Narrative, Persuasive, or Expository.

SENTENCES TO SORT

1. The day I got lost on a school trip
2. My most memorable family holiday
3. A funny moment from when I was younger
4. The time my pet did something surprising
5. Schools should serve healthier lunches
6. Kids should have more recess time
7. Reading books is better than watching TV
8. Plastic bottles should be banned in our school
9. How the water cycle works
10. The three branches of government
11. How bees make honey
12. The differences between reptiles and amphibians

Write the number of each sentence in the correct bucket below.

| Narrative | Persuasive | Expository |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
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“Flip the page upside down to see the answer key “

Narrative: The day I got lost on a school trip, My most memorable family holiday, A funny moment from when I was younger, The time my pet did something surprising | Persuasive: Schools should serve healthier lunches, Kids should have more recess time, Reading books is better than watching TV, Plastic bottles should be banned in our school | Expository: How the water cycle works, The three branches of government, How bees make honey, The differences between reptiles and amphibians

EXERCISES — FILL IN THE BLANKS

Read each prompt and write the matching essay type on the line: narrative, persuasive, or expository.

1. "Tell about a time you helped a friend." Essay type: _____ .
2. "Convince readers to recycle at home." Essay type: _____ .
3. "Explain how plants make food from sunlight." Essay type: _____ .
4. "Describe your most embarrassing moment." Essay type: _____ .
5. "Argue why students should learn a second language." Essay type: _____ .
6. "Describe the parts of a volcano." Essay type: _____ .

"Flip the page upside down to see the answer key "

1. narrative 2. persuasive 3. expository 4. narrative 5. persuasive 6. expository

PRACTICE — DICTATION / TYPING

Without looking, write the rule from memory.

In one sentence, what is the difference between a persuasive essay and an expository essay?

Persuasive writing tries to convince the reader of an opinion. Expository writing stays neutral and explains a topic with facts.

EXERCISES — MATCH THE PAIRS

Match each writing prompt to the essay type it asks for.

1. Tell about a time you helped a friend

2. Convince readers to recycle at home

3. Explain how plants make food from sunlight

4. Describe your most embarrassing moment

5. Argue why students should learn a second language

6. Describe the parts of a volcano

A. Narrative story

B. Persuasive piece

C. Expository report

D. Narrative essay

E. Persuasive essay

F. Expository essay

Write the matching letter next to each number (e.g. 1-B, 2-A, 3-C...).

1 — ____ 2 — ____ 3 — ____ 4 — ____ 5 — ____ 6 — ____

“Flip the page upside down to see the answer key “

1-D 2-E 3-F 4-A 5-B 6-C

EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the best answer.

1. Which essay type tells a story with characters and a setting?

- Narrative
- Persuasive
- Expository

2. The main purpose of a persuasive essay is to:

- Entertain the reader with a story
- Convince the reader of an opinion
- Explain how something works neutrally

3. Which essay type is best for the prompt "Explain how a bicycle works"?

- Narrative
- Persuasive
- Expository

4. Which prompt asks for a narrative essay?

- Argue for shorter homework assignments
- Tell about your first day at a new school
- Define what photosynthesis means

5. Which feature is found in a persuasive essay but NOT a typical expository essay?

- A clear introduction
- Body paragraphs with details
- A claim that the reader is asked to agree with

6. An expository essay should mostly use:

- Strong opinions and feelings
- Facts, definitions, and examples
- A made-up character and dialogue

7. Which prompt verb most clearly signals a persuasive essay?

- Describe
- Convince
- Tell

8. Which sentence would best open a narrative essay?

- There are three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas.
- Schools should let students choose their lunch options.
- It was the loudest thunderstorm I had ever heard.

“Flip the page upside down to see the answer key “

1.a 2.b 3.c 4.b 5.c 6.b 7.b 8.c

ASSESSMENT

PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Names the three essay types and the purpose of each: narrative, persuasive, expository.
- Reads a prompt and decides whether it asks for narrative, persuasive, or expository writing.
- Matches example topics or opening sentences to the correct essay type.
- Explains why a chosen essay type fits the prompt using the prompt verb as evidence.