

# Writing Applications Genres and their Characteristics Prewriting Handout

NARRATIVE

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# **Imaginative/Biographical (2.1)**

Purpose: entertain, relate an event within a time sequence (real or imaginary, factual or fiction)
Characteristics: narrates a sequence of events and scenes with sensory details, develops plot and character, rising action leads to a climax, 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person point-of-view

**Examples**: short story, novel, fable, myth, folk tale, tall tale, epic poem, biographical sketch, monologue

# Personal Expression/Autobiographical Incident (2.1)

Purpose: share personal reflections, express thoughts and feelings, respond to literature

**Characteristics:** reflective language, "I" statements, sensory detail, simile, metaphor, 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person point-of-view **Examples:** personal journal, response log, first-person autobiographical incident, friendly letter, personal memoir, diary, personal essay, poem, character sketch, etc.

# Informative (2.3)

**Purpose:** explain, inform, present factual information

Characteristics: presents clear and purposeful information; supports a thesis or controlling idea/topic with concrete facts, details and examples; synthesizes relevant information from a variety of sources; logical organization; reflects research; 3rd person point-of-view

**Examples:** research report, analytical essay, newspaper article, encyclopedia article, textbook chapter, research/lecture notes

#### **Functional (2.5, 2.6)**

**Characteristics:** explains a task or reports information to a specific audience

**Examples:** business letter, technical documents such as minutes for a meeting or a manual on rules of behavior for conflict resolution

## Persuasive (2.4)

**Purpose:** convince, state problem and proposed solution, analyze cause/effect relationships, discuss controversial issues **Characteristics:** logically supports a clear position or perspective with relevant evidence, provides convincing arguments and counterarguments, reflects analytical thinking and/or evaluation, 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person point-of-view

**Examples:** persuasive essay, persuasive letter or letter to editor, editorial compare/contrast essay, political speech, critical reviews, character analysis

### **Response to Literature (2.2)**

Shares the same purpose and characteristics as above, but demonstrates an understanding and interpretation of literary work and supports viewpoint through specific references to text

Adapted from Atlee/Strahl