Basic Modes of Writing

Creative Writing - entertain the reader

Descriptive Writing - describes a person, place, or event. Includes vivid details that paint a mental image.

Expository Writing - provide information such as an explanation or directions

Narrative Writing - describes an experience, event, or sequent of events in the form of a story

Persuasive Writing - gives an opinion and try to influence the reader with supporting evidence

Subcategories

Argumentative Writing - a form of Persuasive Writing that starts with a position opposed to the reader's position, and attempts to convince the reader of the truth of this position

Business Writing - a form of Expository Writing that communicates with others in the work place. Assumes a knowledge of the topic being discussed.

Comparison and Contrast Writing - a form of Expository Writing that shows the similarities and differences between two subjects.

Expressive Writing - a form of Creative Writing that shares thoughts, ideas, and feeling on a topic.

Informative Writing - a form of Expository Writing that provides information in a clear, concise manner.

Literary Response - a form of Expository Writing that offers a personal reaction to a piece of literature.

Personal Narrative Writing - a form of Narrative Writing that share an experience or events from the author's own life.

Poetry - a form of Creative Writing that reflects imaginatively on a subject, idea, or event.

Process Writing - Expository Writing that explains the steps or procedure of something.

Reaction Writing - a form of Expository Writing that provides a personal response to something.

Research Writing - a form of Expository Writing that reports new information that has been learned by studying available resources.

Technical Writing - a form of Expository Writing that conveys technical information in a simple, no-nonsense manner.

Ref: http://www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com/writing/modes/definitions.html