

Nature & Style of Writing

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What is style in writing?

- A writing style is **an author's unique way of communicating with words**. An author creates a style with the voice, or personality, and overall tone that they apply to their text. A writer's style can change depending on the type of writing they're doing, who they're writing for, and their target audience.

4 Essential Types of Writing Styles



1. Expository

- Expository writing is long on facts and short on storytelling and literary flourishes.
- It can inform or instruct readers about a subject, but in its purest form, it's not out to change anyone's mind.

Examples of expository writing

- News articles
- Nonfiction books
- Textbooks
- Scientific and medical research
- Instruction manuals
- Cookbooks

2. Descriptive

- Descriptive writing is, well, just that. It may be actual poetry, or simply poetic, often using metaphors, as well as adjectives, adverbs, and language that activates the reader's senses.

Examples of Expository Writing

- Poetry
- Diary entries
- Nature writing
- Within a longer piece of writing

3. Narrative

- The narrative style of writing tells a story. Its hallmark is a plot with a beginning, middle, and end.

Examples of Narrative Writing

- Novels
- Creative nonfiction (e.g. magazine features)
- Screenplays
- Biographies
- Mythology

4. Persuasive

- As the name implies, this writing style sets out to win its audience over to a certain point of view.
- It builds an argument by presenting evidence and justifications to back up an opinion. This may lead to a call to action

Examples of Persuasive Writing

- Academic papers
- Opinion and editorial writing
- Advertising copy
- Product reviews
- Cover letters and letters of recommendation