

Essay Genres

quick guide

Narrative:



- Tells a story from your own life or someone else's.
- Focuses on a specific moment or series of events.
- Includes characters, setting, conflict, and resolution, often highlighting a lesson learned or change in perspective.
- Uses sensory details to set the scene and connect with the reader.

Summary & Response



- First summarizes another author's argument or main idea accurately and objectively.
- Then responds with your own opinion, agreement, critique, and/or questions.
- Shows your understanding of the other author's text and requires you to use your critical thinking skills.

Classification



- Sorts a topic into categories to help the reader understand it better.
- Each category is clearly defined and explained with examples.
- Helps show the patterns, relationships, or hidden structures in things we experience every day.

Problem/Solution



- Identifies a real-world problem and explains why it matters.
- Proposes at least one solution and provides supporting evidence.
- May evaluate pros and cons of different approaches.
- Aims to inform *and* persuade.

Rhetorical Analysis



- Examines how an author persuades an audience by looking not at what they say, but *how* they say it.
- Analyzes tone, purpose, and the use of ethos, pathos, and logos as persuasive strategies.
- Evaluates the author's effectiveness without expressing your opinion.

Evaluation



- Makes a judgement about something, like a movie, restaurant, or store.
- Each category is clearly defined and explained with examples.
- Integrates your opinion, but relies on the objective details of the categories to prove your point.

Need more help or want to share your draft with a coach?

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