

Common Nonfiction Genres
Organized by Primary Intention/Form of Discourse

Expository Nonfiction	Argumentative Nonfiction	Descriptive Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction
expository essay -explains something typically using singly or in combination the methods of identification, definition, classification, illustration, comparison, and analysis	persuasive essay -attempts to influence readers' opinions, enlighten the readers support, make a proposal, or change readers' behavior	descriptive essay -names, details, and compares a person, place, thing, action, or idea to make a point	narrative essay -tells a story to make a point
informative speeches	persuasive speeches	descriptive speeches -orally create a picture through words or attempt to recreate the sensory experience for the listener	narrative speech - a story is orally presented with its significance, effect, or moral
Lecture -a speech delivered before a class or audience to instruct or explain	plea -attempts to influence a judge or jury		
demonstration speech -a speech explaining how to conduct a procedure	political speech - attempts to influence the listener regarding citizens and the government Sermon -attempts to influence members of a congregations religious views or personal behavior		
technical writing - explains a topic or how to perform a task with the expectation that the reader will need to take action	debate - a formal contest in which the affirmative and negative sides of a proposition are argued	report -a statement describing in detail an event, situation, patient, etc., usually as the result of observation, inquiry, etc.	biography - the life story of one person told by another
manual - a small book giving information or instructions			
article on a technique or method			
	book review -a critical description, evaluation, or analysis of a book	character sketch -a word picture of the personalities of a man or woman	autobiography -the life story of a person told by themselves
	editorial -an article presenting the opinion of the publisher or editors	caricature -a distorted or exaggerated word picture of a person	travel narrative -the story of an individual or group's journey
	advice column -provides instructions or opinion in response to readers questions regarding judgment or conduct	observation -describes what a writer has seen, heard, or known by personal presence and perception	news story -journalistic report typically including the who, what, when, where, how & why of an event; divided into hard and soft news stories
	movie/film review -a critical description, evaluation, or analysis of a motion picture	interview -a report of a meeting or conversation	anecdote -a very short account/narrative of a particular incident/event of an interesting or amusing nature, often biographical
			diary -an intimate record of personal observations, experiences, and impressions history - a record of past events account/report - an oral or written description of an event
letter—personal or business	letter—personal or business	Letter—personal or business	letter—personal or business