

Selected Terms of Nonfiction Literature

An **observation** describes an event a writer witnessed firsthand.

A **persuasive speech** is an oral presentation whose purpose is to convince listeners to accept a particular opinion or to take a specific action.

An **essay** is a short piece of nonfiction in which a writer expresses a personal view on a topic.

A **narrative essay** tells a story.

A **persuasive essay** presents an opinion in order to convince readers to accept a position or take a course of action.

A **reflective essay** reveals a writer's feelings about a topic of personal importance. (A **personal essay** is a kind of informal essay with an intimate style, autobiographical content or interest, and an urbane conversational manner.)

Biography/Biographical writing is nonfiction in which a writer tells the story of another person's life.

Autobiography/Autobiographical writing is nonfiction in which a writer tells the story of his or her own life.

A **remembrance** typically celebrates or honors the memory of a person or an event.

An **expository essay** explains something typically using singly or in combination the following methods: identification, definition, classification, illustration, comparison, and analysis.

A **biographical essay** expresses a view on another's life. It may be primarily narrative, analytical, or descriptive in purpose.

An **occasional speech** is an oral presentation with a purpose and content determined by the nature of the event at which it is delivered.

A **visual essay** is a piece of nonfiction that conveys its ideas through visual elements as well as language.

Career writing is any writing that is done as part of a person's job responsibilities.

An **interview** is a report of a meeting or conversation in which a writer or reporter asks questions of one or more persons from whom material is sought for a newspaper story, television broadcast, etc.

An **account/report** is a verbal or written narration or statement describing in detail an event, situation, or the like, usually as the result of observation, inquiry, etc.

A **book review** is a critical description, evaluation, or analysis of a book, especially one published in a newspaper or magazine.