

TEXT TYPES

I) NARRATIVE TEXT

To entertain, instruct or inform the reader by telling a story e.g. Visual Arts - Write a narrative about a painting

Essentially, the purpose of narrative texts is to tell a story. That said, there can be many reasons for storytelling in the first place, for example, myths can be told to explain natural phenomena and legends can be used to pass on cultural beliefs. Storytelling itself is a means to entertain and inform readers and allows for the writer to express themselves creatively and imaginatively. There are many types of narrative text, including myths, fables, traditional tales, novels, short stories, etc, to name but a few.

There are many types of narrative text, but broadly speaking, they all begin by establishing the setting and introducing characters. A problem or complication is then introduced which serves as the driving force behind the ensuing events. After the rising action reaches a dramatic high point or climax, a resolution is achieved and the story ends.

Main Features:

- Most often written in the past or present tense
- Most often uses the third or first person perspective
- Characters are often recognisably human in their motivations and actions
- Language is used creatively to paint a picture in the reader's mind
- Storytelling may be supplemented by the use of images

II) PERSUASIVE TEXT

The purpose of persuasive type texts is to convince the reader of the merits of adopting a particular viewpoint or taking a specific course of action.

Beginning with an opening statement, or thesis statement, persuasive texts start by summing up the viewpoint to be presented. The body paragraphs then organize, present, and elaborate on this viewpoint. A closing statement then restates and reinforces the original thesis of the text.

Main Features:

- Written in the simple present tense
- Moves from a general point to specific points
- Uses logical connectives (therefore, because of this, this proves that)
- Employs rhetorical devices
- Uses facts and evidence to support arguments
- Addresses reader directly
- Employs various methods of psychological persuasion

III) DESCRIPTIVE TEXT

Descriptive texts are concerned with the location of persons and things in space.

- They will tell us what lies to the right or left, in the background or foreground, or they will provide background information which, perhaps, sets the stage for narration.
- It is immaterial whether a description is more technical-objective or more impressionistic subjective.

IV) EXPOSITORY TEXT

Expository texts identify and characterize phenomena.

- They include text forms such as definitions, explications, summaries and many types of essay.
- may be subjective (essay) or objective (summary, explication, definition)
- may be analytical (starting from a concept and then characterizing its parts; e.g. definitions) or synthetic (recounting characteristics and ending with an appropriate concept or conclusion; e.g. summaries)

- are characterized by state verbs and epistemic modals (Pop music has a strong rhythmic beat; Texts may consist of one or more sentences) or by verbs indicating typical activities or qualities (fruitflies feed on yeast).