



THE MAIN FOUR TYPES OF ESSAYS

NARRATIVE ESSAYS

A narrative essay is a **story**, sometimes told from personal experience. There must be a reason for telling the story and it typically contains a beginning, a middle and an end.

For example: an essay about a study abroad experience.

1

DESCRIPTIVE ESSAYS

A descriptive essay is an explanation of the **attributes** of something or someone after a meticulous observation. It is usually a description of the physical form of something, but it can also relay the traits of abstract subjects, such as feelings, or explain the particulars of an event.

For example: an essay describing the author's home, childbirth or the feeling of anxiety.

2

EXPOSITORY ESSAYS

An expository essay **informs** the reader on the subject. It is an objective explanation of the basic concepts and different aspects of the topic selected. It must contain relevant data and avoid personal opinions or feelings.

For example: an expository essay on climate change would include the definition of climate change, an explanation of the causes, how it affects us, and the efforts being made to stop it.

3

ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS

In an argumentative essay, the author takes a **position** within a topic and defends that position. The argumentative essay presents arguments for or against something using evidence, such as data, statistics, and expert's opinions, to back up their claim.

For example: an argumentative essay in favor of art education.

4

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