

## Narrative and Descriptive Writing Overview

Types (Modes, Categories)	Characteristics	Primary Purposes	Genres and Subgenres
<b>Narrative (Fiction)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fictional narratives are based on the imagination.</li> <li>Fictional narratives include elements of literature: plot, character, setting, point of view, and theme.</li> <li>Some subgenres, such as contemporary realistic and historical fiction, include facts.</li> <li>Writers can utilize a variety of literary techniques, such as suspense, foreshadowing, dialect, dialogue, allusion, and so forth, as well as descriptive details and figurative language (such as imagery and simile).</li> <li>Plot forms the basic structure that chronicles how the events unfold naturally and in a logical order.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plot elements include introduction, central conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution (denouement).</li> <li>More sophisticated writers might include flashbacks, flash forward, or parallel or multiple plotlines.</li> <li>Developing writers can create a beginning, middle, and end or a problem and solution as a starting point for producing a plot.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To entertain</li> <li>To describe</li> </ul>	<p>Folktales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairy tales</li> <li>Myths</li> <li>Legends</li> <li>Tall tales</li> <li>Animal tales               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trickster tales</li> <li>Fables</li> <li>Pourquoi (or etiological) tales</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Fantasy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High and low fantasy</li> <li>Science fiction</li> </ul> <p>Realism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contemporary realistic fiction</li> <li>Realistic fiction</li> <li>Historical fiction</li> <li>Mystery</li> </ul>
<b>Narrative (Nonfiction)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlike fictional narrative, nonfiction narration is based on facts and is informative rather than fictitious.</li> <li>Genres in this category can include some elements of literature but with a different treatment.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The characters are actual people.</li> <li>All genres do not include each plot element; for example, a biography may not have a climax.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Writers of narrative nonfiction may utilize literary techniques such as dialogue, allusion, and symbolism, irony, as well as descriptive details and figurative language (such as imagery and metaphor).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To inform</li> <li>To describe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biography</li> <li>Autobiography</li> <li>Memoir</li> <li>Personal narrative</li> </ul>
<b>Descriptive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writers describe an object, topic, character, person, place, experience, situation, emotion, or event so readers can visualize it.</li> <li>Descriptions can stand alone or be incorporated within narrative text (such as describe a setting, character, or individual), expository writing (describe steps to perform a task or describe parts of a plant), or persuasive writing (describe a scenario to establish context for an argument).</li> <li>This type of writing includes precise and vivid language and relies heavily on figurative language (such as imagery, simile, or metaphor).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To describe</li> </ul>	<p>Poetry and various genres that incorporate descriptive writing for different purposes</p>

Source: Glass, K. T. (2017a). The fundamentals of (re)designing writing units. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press.