

Narrative Text - reading for the story

Narrative text – often fiction in which the values are used to describe and/or to explain human behavior. It involves a setting and a character or characters who are involved in one or more conflicts (e.g., interpersonal, internal; with society). Theme may be directly stated or implied. The piece makes sense when read from beginning to end.

Narrative Characteristics:

- Tells a story.
- Contains well-developed characters.
- Contains a setting describing where or when the story takes place.
- Contains a carefully fashioned plot with a problem and resolution.
- Contains a theme that explains the meaning of the story.
- Contains vocabulary used to enrich understanding of the story.
- May be written in first, second, or third person.

Traditional Narrative Structure:

- Beginning: Contains a setting, characters, problem(s)/conflict(s), initiating events,
- Middle: Turning points, crisis, rising action, climax, subplot, parallel episodes.
- End: Resolution, falling action, ending.

Narrative Text Types Include:

Biographies (depending on text structure), drama, diaries, excerpts from novels, fables, fantasies, folk tales, historical fiction, legends, mysteries, myths, novels, personal narratives, plays, poetry, mysteries, science fiction, short stories, sitcoms, tall tales, etc.

Expository Text - reading for information

Expository text - nonfiction in which the author seeks to explain or inform. The information can be verified as true. Common structures within expository text include description, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution, sequence, or a combination of such structures.

Expository Characteristics:

To inform, explain, describe, enumerate, discuss, compare/contrast, and problem-solve.

Subject orientated; is focused on a specific topic.

Multiple organizational patterns, such as context clues or text features.

Difficult to predict based on content.

Various text patterns are signaled by different headings, subheadings, and signal words.

Contains facts and information using clear and precise dialogue.

Expository Structure:

Includes definition, description, process (collection, time order, or listing) classification, comparison, analysis, and persuasion.

Expository Text Types Include:

ABC books, autobiographies, biographies, essays, book reports, brochures, cartoons, catalogs, comics, complaints, definitions, government reports, graphs and charts, interviews, invitations, journals, lists, memoirs (depends on purpose and text structure), newspaper/magazine articles, recounts of an event, research papers, speeches, etc.

Technical Text - reading to reach an end

Technical text - nonfiction text in which the author gives information to the reader that may be used to perform a task, including planning and decision making. The material to be read may include explicit steps to follow or the steps may be implied in a graphic.

Technical Characteristics:

Sentences are commonly shortened or fragmented.

Numbered or bulleted lists are commonly used.

Employs dictionary meaning of words.

Focused on an identified topic.

Is organized in a logical and orderly way.

Hierarchical organization in which information may be accessed at random.

Domain-specific terminology.

Avoidance of humor, vague terms, figurative language, and interrogative and imperative sentences.

Often employs subordination suggesting cause and effect.

There is a balance of white space and text.

Technical Text Types Include:

Brochures, classified ads, consumer information, directions, floor plans, forms, graphs and charts, how-to guides, instructions, job preparation manuals, job related materials, maps, menus, questionnaires, recipes, regulations, schedules, school forms, syllabi, transcripts, warranties, etc.

Persuasive Text - reading to consider an action

Persuasive text - is nonfiction in which the author intends to convince the reader to adopt a particular opinion or to perform a certain action.

Persuasive Characteristics:

To take an informed stand on an issue using persuasive reasons and elaborating on those reasons.

The author considers the state of the reader's emotion, beliefs, desires, commitments.

Attempts to solve a problem by invoking change.

Written to convince the reader to adopt the writer's point of view.

Focuses on a central purpose and sometimes relies on propaganda and sarcasm.

Author uses appeal to reason, emotional appeal, and endorsement by an influential figure (e.g., bandwagon approach, glittering generalities, testimonials, citing authority, statistics, other techniques that appeal to reason or emotion),

Persuasive Text Includes:

Introduction to the problem

Background to the problem

Proposal to remedy the problem

Argument for the proposal

Refutation of opposing sides

Call to action

Text types include:

Advertisements, book reviews, brochures, business letters, charitable campaign appeals, commercials, debates (written), editorials, essays, letters to the editor, movie critiques, political campaign literature, position papers, posters, single editorials or letters, speeches, etc.