

Different Modes of Writing

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Writing can come in many different modes. Below is a table of various types of writing you can assign in your classes:

Academic Modes Of Writing

- Analytical essay
- Argument paper (position paper)
- Comparison and contrast essay
- Book review
- Research essay
- Lab report
- Brief
- Personal essay (exemplification paper)
- Proposal
- Report
- Evaluation and progress report

Non-Academic Expository Modes Of Writing

- Letter (informational, personal, to editor, to elected officials, to other classmates, to you)
- Editorial or opinion piece
- Feature article
- Memo
- Minutes
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Popular article
- Fact sheet
- Press release
- Film, television, book review
- Guides (how-to)
- Dictionary entry, lexicon
- Evaluation and progress report

Creative Modes Of Writing

- Edited journal and diary
- Biographical sketch
- Short story or narrative (autobiographical, historical, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, detective)
- Poem
- Play
- Script (radio, television, documentaries, slide shows)
- Cartoon
- Fairy tale
- Tall tale
- Song lyrics

Five-Minute In-Class Writing Assignments

- State the major point or thesis of a course reading in 1-2 sentences.
- Outline one reading (using phrases or key words).
- Outline one reading (using complete sentences).
- Summarize one reading in two paragraphs.
- Explain how the course reading relates to the course topic.
- Connect a point made in a course reading or lecture to an experience in your life.
- Compare or contrast a point made in the current reading to a point made in an earlier reading in the course.
- Compare or contrast a point made in a course reading to a text in another course.
- Connect a point in a course reading to a current event in the news.
- Connect a point made in a course reading to a Miami University community incident.
- Connect the lecture to the readings for the week or day.
- Generate an open-ended (divergent) discussion question about the reading.
- Generate an empirical question about the reading.
- Generate a theoretical or speculative question about the reading.
- Cite one claim in the reading and the evidence that was used to support it.
- Take one major concept discussed in the reading, and come up with an explanation for it--and use a metaphor in your explanation.
- Respond to one of the following prompts. Complete the sentence and then explain your answer.
 - The part about the reading that was most confusing was
 - The part about the reading that I disagreed with was
 - The part about the reading that interested me the most was
- Come up with a thesis statement about the course reading(s).
- Write a paragraph that discusses the reading's purpose (or intended audience or organizational plan or use of evidence).