

# ESSAY GENRE TIP SHEET

Persuasive  
Expository  
Narrative

## GETTING STARTED



### Begin by doing something else.

Don't start out with an essay format! Use a graphic organizer, poem, bumper sticker, advertisement, etc. to get the thoughts flowing and make the essay writing process less intimidating.

Give students plenty of time to generate ideas, research their topic, and organize their information.

An essay is generally a shorter, less formal piece of non-fiction writing in which the author maintains a more conversational tone with the reader than they would in a formally produced article.

<http://curriculum640essaywriting.weebly.com/>

## PERSUASIVE WRITING

### Develop the Argument

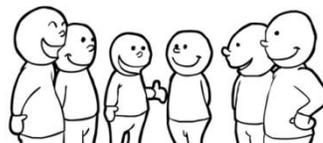
Arguments should be based on fact. Use a T-Chart to help show the relationship between arguments and supporting details.

### Know the Counterargument

Oftentimes, the best way to persuade someone is to argue against the opposite perspective!

### Reflect

Give students the opportunity to collect feedback from their audience. This can allow students to revise or set goals for future writing pieces and to gain confidence in their own writing abilities.



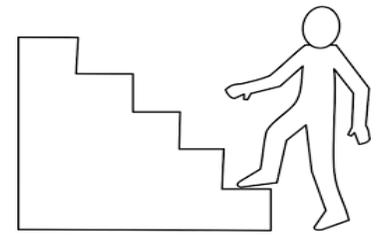
### Know the Audience

A writer should always think about his or her audience before writing, especially for persuasive essays, where the audience is the one who needs convincing. Use RAFT (Role, Audience, Form, and Topic) assignments to create authentic writing with a target audience (other than the teacher).

## Model, Model, Model

Don't assume that students come in with the knowledge to write an essay in a logical manner. Let students see you make mistakes and persevere to fix them.

# EXPOSITORY WRITING



## Consider the Possibilities

Don't limit students to one type of expository writing (i.e. DBQs, book reports). Consider autobiographies, editorials, and commentaries!

## Show Enthusiasm

Model enthusiastic writing for your students. Don't treat it as "something that just has to be done."

## Scaffold

Students need proficiency in these five domains to succeed:

- Prior knowledge of the topic
- Metacognitive awareness
- Understanding of essay structure
- Interest in the topic and purpose
- Confidence of their own writing ability and language mastery



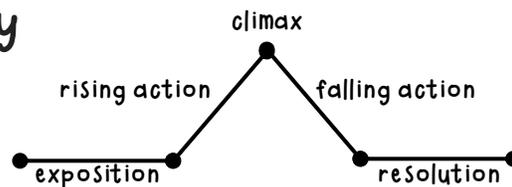
## Question the World

An expository essay is an answer to any question—let your students ask questions, get creative, and wonder about the world!

# NARRATIVE WRITING

## It's Like a Story

It needs to have a beginning, middle, and end. It should be in sequential order; however, sequence is not necessary if older writers want to include foreshadowing or flashbacks in their essays.



Narrative essays should also include a detailed setting, cast of characters, and a problem or conflict.

## Point of View

Narrative writing is a great tool to use for deepening students' understanding of perspective and character development.

## Real or Make Believe

Younger students typically write narrative essays from their own point of view—describing an event that happened to them. As students' narrative writing progresses, encourage them to create stories with characters different from themselves!

## Have Fun!

Just like crafting a story from your imagination, narrative writing can go in any direction with a little creativity and willingness to think outside of the box!

# REVISING AND EDITING

## Narrow the Focus

When students revise or edit, have them look at only one part at a time (i.e. spelling, word choice, fragments, etc).

## A Little Help from Friends

Use peer revision and editing to make these tedious processes more engaging.