

Non-Fiction Forms of Writing

There are many different forms of non-fiction writing that students both read and are expected to write themselves. Each of these forms has their own purpose and form. (Gear, 2014)

Different forms of writing can be used within the same topic and subject area. For example:

<p>Content Area: Science Topic: Weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description – describe the weather in Saskatchewan in January • Instruction – how to make a winter survival kit • Persuasion – which weather is the deadliest to humans? • Explanation – how do blizzards form? • Comparison – compare a winter blizzard with a summer hurricane • Nonfiction Narrative – Newfoundland Blizzard January, 2020 report

Form	Writer's Intent	Example	Curricular Connections
Description	To provide reader with facts and information about a topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive reports on countries, animals, plants, insects, etc. • Classroom blogs. • Book or movie reviews. 	
Instruction	To provide reader with instructions on how to achieve a goal, do something, make something, get somewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How something works: e.g. manuals, how to use something, survival guides. • How to do or make something: e.g. recipes, rules for games, science experiments, crafts, instructions on starting a blog page. 	

Persuasion	To share an opinion with the reader or attempt to convince the reader to take an action of some kind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinion piece: e.g. favourite book, movie, pet, season. • Persuasive piece: e.g. you should eat a healthy diet; no school uniforms; best chocolate bar to buy; oru school is the best. • Classroom blogs or online reviews. 	
Comparison	To share with the reader the similarities and differences between two topics or ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare (similarities) and contrast (differences): e.g. rabbits and hares; Canada and Japan; cars then and now. 	
Explanation	To provide reader with facts explaining how or why something happens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific explanations: e.g. how a spider spins a web, why some things float, and others sink. 	
Nonfiction Narrative	To provide reader with sequential description of events in a person's life, a current or historical event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biography of a famous or non-famous person. • Autobiography • Current event/newspaper • Past event • Blogs or tweets 	

Gear, A. (2014). *Nonfiction Writing Power*. Markham: Pembroke Publishers.

