

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Gourmet Guide to Writing: Mastering Essay Types for College

Functional analysis, structural synthesis, and rhetorical strategy—this worksheet tasks you with decoding complex prompts to choose the perfect academic flavor.

1. A researcher is documenting the sociocultural impact of the 1960s Bossa Nova movement in Brazil by synthesizing archival accounts and musical theory. Which essay type best serves this objective?

- A. Narrative
- B. Expository
- C. Persuasive
- D. Descriptive

2. In a ____ essay regarding the ethical implications of CRISPR gene editing, the writer must not only present a claim but also rigorously address the 'counter-claim' or opposing viewpoint.

- A. Expository
- B. Descriptive
- C. Argumentative
- D. Narrative

3. True or False: A narrative essay in a higher-education setting may prioritize thematic resonance and the 'meaning-making' process over a literal chronological sequence of events.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which of these introductory hooks would most likely belong to a descriptive essay focused on the aesthetic of 'Wabi-sabi' in Japanese architecture?

- A. Architects should be required to use sustainable wood in all new builds.
- B. The irregular grain of the weathered cypress beam felt cold and gritty under my palm.
- C. Wabi-sabi is defined as a world view centered on the acceptance of transience.
- D. I first discovered the concept of imperfect beauty while traveling through Kyoto.

5. When an author uses a ____ essay to advocate for universal basic income, they are leveraging 'pathos, ethos, and logos' to influence the reader's belief system.

- A. Descriptive
- B. Expository
- C. Persuasive
- D. Narrative

6. True or False: The primary goal of an expository essay is to use emotional language to ensure the reader empathizes with the author's personal struggle.

- A. True

Name: _____ Date: _____

B. False

7. In a Comparative Literature course, you are asked to 'evaluate the use of magical realism in the works of Gabriel García Márquez versus Salman Rushdie.' This prompt requires which primary structure?

- A. Narrative
- B. Persuasive
- C. Expository
- D. Argumentative

8. A ___ essay about the interior of the Large Hadron Collider would focus on spatial organization and technical vividness rather than arguing for its funding.

- A. Persuasive
- B. Descriptive
- C. Narrative
- D. Argumentative

9. True or False: A college-level argumentative essay must be supported by empirical evidence or scholarly peer-reviewed sources to be considered valid.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Which essay type is most appropriate for a reflection on how a semester-long internship at a non-profit changed your understanding of systemic poverty?

- A. Expository
- B. Narrative
- C. Descriptive
- D. Argumentative