Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Answer Key: Composition Compass: Your 4th Grade Guide to Essay Styles

Learners sharpen their ability to distinguish between purpose-driven writing styles through real-world analysis, perfect for formative assessment or independent stations.

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1. Imagine you are writing a piece titled 'The Hidden Life of Honeybees' to teach your class about how bees communicate. Which essay type are you using?

Answer: B) Expository

Expository writing is used to inform or explain a topic using facts and logic, which matches the goal of teaching a class about bees.

2. A writer trying to convince the school principal to allow a 'no-uniform' day is writing a persuasive essay.

Answer: A) True

Persuasive essays aim to influence the reader's opinion or encourage them to take a specific action.

3. If you write an essay about the time you and your grandfather went fishing and you describe the sequence of events from morning to night, you are writing a _____ essay.

Answer: C) Narrative

Narrative essays tell a story through a sequence of events, often using personal experiences and a clear timeline.

4. Which of these sentences would most likely belong in a descriptive essay about an old, abandoned house?

Answer: C) Peeling grey paint flaked off the walls like dry skin.

Descriptive writing uses sensory details and vivid imagery (like 'peeling grey paint') to create a picture in the reader's mind.

5. An expository essay's main goal is to use metaphors and adjectives to make the reader feel an emotion.

Answer: B) False

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While they might use adjectives, the main goal of an expository essay is to inform or explain, not to evoke emotion through imagery.

6. When a student writes a paper titled 'Why Every Student Needs a Tablet' and provides three reasons supported by evidence, they are creating a(n) _____ essay.

Answer: C) Persuasive

This piece tries to change the reader's mind using reasons and evidence, which is the hallmark of persuasive writing.

7. How does a narrative essay differ from an expository essay?

Answer: B) Narratives tell a story, while expository essays explain info.

The primary purpose of a narrative is storytelling, whereas an expository essay focuses on delivering factual information.

8. Writing a step-by-step guide on how to bake a chocolate cake is an example of an expository text.

Answer: A) True

Explaining a process or 'how-to' falls under the expository category because it is providing information and instruction.

9. A(n) _____ essay would be the best choice if you wanted to capture the exact sound, smell, and feel of a rainforest.

Answer: A) Descriptive

Descriptive essays focus specifically on sensory details to recreate an experience for the reader's senses.

10. If you are writing about a time you helped a friend and what you learned from it, your essay will likely include:

Answer: B) Characters, a setting, and a plot.

Personal stories (narratives) include story elements like characters, a setting, and a plot to engage the reader.