

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Which Mode Matters? A Senior Guide to Essay Types

Differentiate between nuanced rhetorical modes like satire and academic critique, moving beyond basic structures into the intentionality of senior-level writing.

1. A literary critic writing for a journal analyzes the hidden symbolism in Ralph Ellison's 'Invisible Man.' Which essay type are they primarily employing?

Answer: B) Expository

Expository writing aims to explain, inform, or analyze a subject—in this case, interpreting the symbolism within a text for an audience.

2. A persuasive essay's primary goal is to provide a neutral, unbiased overview of a controversial topic.

Answer: B) False

Persuasive essays are inherently biased; they use rhetoric and evidence specifically to convince the reader to adopt a particular viewpoint.

3. When a writer uses vivid imagery to capture the decaying atmosphere of a Gothic cathedral, they are utilizing the _____ mode.

Answer: C) Descriptive

Descriptive essays focus on sensory details and artistic language to create a mental image (imagery) for the reader.

4. In a college application personal statement, a student recounts a specific moment of realization during a volunteer trip. This structure is best classified as:

Answer: D) Narrative

Narrative essays use a story-like structure, often involving characters and a sequence of events, to convey a deeper personal meaning.

5. An essay that systematically evaluates the pros and cons of implementing Universal Basic Income using empirical data is an primary example of _____ writing.

Answer: B) Argumentative

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Argumentative essays require the writer to take a stance on a topic and defend it through logical reasoning and external evidence.

6. Expository essays are frequently used in scientific journals to communicate the results of a study without trying to influence the reader's emotions.

Answer: A) True

The expository mode is factual and instructive, prioritizing clarity and information over emotional persuasion.

7. Jonathan Swift's 'A Modest Proposal' uses irony to suggest an outrageous solution to poverty. While satirical, its underlying structure mimics which essay type to mock it?

Answer: A) Persuasive/Argumentative

Swift uses the format of a persuasive proposal—complete with 'logic' and 'benefits'—to highlight the cruelty of existing social policies.

8. The primary difference between an argumentative essay and a persuasive essay is that the argumentative essay must include a _____.

Answer: C) Counterargument

Argumentative writing at the senior level requires acknowledging and refuting opposing viewpoints (counterarguments) to build a robust case.

9. A narrative essay must always be written in the first person ('I') because it is based on personal experience.

Answer: B) False

While common, narratives can be written in the third person to tell someone else's story or a historical account while maintaining a narrative arc.

10. If a writer is asked to compare the architectural styles of Frank Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier, which essay purpose are they fulfilling?

Answer: C) To explain and categorize info

Comparative analysis is a form of expository writing, as it breaks down complex information into understandable categories for the reader.