

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Which Essay Wins? 9th Grade Rhetorical Strategy Show-down

Analyze complex stylistic choices and structural nuances to synthesize why specific essay forms outperform others in varied academic scenarios.

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**1. An author writing an analysis of the ethical implications of genetic engineering in agriculture, addressing both benefits and potential ecological risks, is likely drafting which essay type?**

**Answer:** C) Argumentative

Argumentative essays require a claim supported by evidence while acknowledging and refuting counter-arguments or multiple perspectives on a complex issue.

**2. True or False: An expository essay primarily focuses on the author's emotional journey and uses first-person 'I' to connect with the reader's feelings.**

**Answer:** B) False

Expository essays are informative and objective. Using first-person 'I' to focus on emotional journeys is a hallmark of narrative or reflective writing, not formal exposition.

**3. In a \_\_\_\_\_ essay, the writer relies heavily on the 'show, don't tell' method, using figurative language like metaphors and similes to recreate a specific setting.**

**Answer:** C) Descriptive

Descriptive essays prioritize sensory details and imagery to create a vivid mental picture for the reader without necessarily advancing a plot or argument.

**4. If you are tasked with writing a technical manual explaining how blockchain technology functions without expressing an opinion, which essay mode is most appropriate?**

**Answer:** B) Expository

Expository writing aims to explain, inform, or define a specific topic using a logical, objective structure.

**5. Which transition word would be most common in a persuasive essay intended to highlight a logical consequence?**

**Answer:** D) Therefore

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'Therefore' signifies a logical conclusion or result, which is crucial for building a persuasive argument based on evidence.

**6. True or False: A narrative essay must always contain a conflict and a resolution.**

**Answer:** A) True

Because narrative essays are structured around storytelling, they require a plot arc which inherently includes a conflict and its eventual resolution.

**7. An essay that uses the 'point-by-point' or 'block' method to examine the similarities between the 1918 flu and COVID-19 is a specific type of \_\_\_\_\_ essay.**

**Answer:** C) Expository

Compare and contrast essays are a subset of expository writing because their primary goal is to inform the reader about relationships between subjects.

**8. What is the primary difference between a persuasive essay and an argumentative essay at the 9th-grade level?**

**Answer:** B) Argumentative requires a formal counter-claim; persuasive focuses on the author's stance.

Argumentative writing is more academically rigorous, requiring the writer to engage with opposing viewpoints (counter-claims) to strengthen their position.

**9. True or False: In a descriptive essay about an ancient ruin, it is considered effective to focus only on visual details and ignore sound or touch.**

**Answer:** B) False

Strong descriptive writing utilizes all five senses (imagery) to provide a multi-dimensional experience for the reader.

**10. The 'Call to Action' is a concluding element most unique to the \_\_\_\_\_ essay type.**

**Answer:** C) Persuasive

A call to action asks the reader to do something or change their mind, which is the ultimate goal of persuasive and argumentative writing.