

College Prep English - Updated Winter 2016
Writing Approaches Worksheet
COMPLETED

Expository Writing Approaches

	Characteristics			
Definition	Explain word or concept	About preventing reader misunderstanding	Give etymology of concept/word (origin and history)	Distinguishing characteristics
Description	All about sensory details	Dominant impression, not facts	Help reader come to a logical conclusion	Little or no sense of time
Narration	Time sequence or chronology	Pivotal moment or conflict	Sensory details	Show, don't tell
Example	Define and explain a concept	Each example distinct from the others	Supporting details given about each example	Specific, not vague examples

Technical Writing Approaches

	Characteristics			
Process	How to do or make something	Steps given in order	Explanation given for the reasons behind each step	Safety or pitfall warnings
Classification & Division	Group by shared characteristics	Start with a group	Sort and name sub-groups	Logical explanations basis for clarification
Comparison & Contrast	Serves an identifiable purpose	Parallel points	One at a time, or point by point	Points are useful to the reader
Cause & Effect	True and logical cause and effect relationships	Order of importance or time	If/then logic	Only 2 possible directions, C to E or E to C

Rhetorical Writing Approaches

	Characteristics			
Argumentation	Purpose is get the reader to agree	Appeals to logic and reason	Builds up to strongest point	Acknowledges merits of opposition
Persuasion	Purpose is to motivate the reader	Appeals to emotion and human values	Builds up to strongest point	Acknowledges merits of opposition
Analysis	Divide subject into parts	Examine one part at a time	Complex exposition	Clear purpose, explaining something new
Synthesis	After analysis, combine info in new ways	Interpreted from your own perspective and background	Make new connections for the reader	Generate new conclusions



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Writing Situations

	Characteristics			
Recalling an Experience	Connect events to your argument (i.e. different from narration)	Articulate lessons learned	Story of personal change	End with a sense of finality
Interviewing a Subject	Connect firsthand knowledge to your arguments	Show subject's character and personality through conversation	Dominant impression of the subject	Accurate quotations
Taking a Stand	No logical fallacies	Win readers' respect for your opinion	Consider, respect, and concede opinions of opposition	Present persuasive, effective, multi-sided evidence
Proposing a Solution	Start with explanation and analysis of a problem	Consider multiple solutions before choosing final solution	Outline steps necessary for recommended solution	Use theory instead of "preachy" elements like "should" and "must"
Evaluating & Reviewing	First decide on criteria for judging	Second, use evidence to defend judgment	Author needs to establish authority to judge	Articulate recommended qualities of final choice
Supporting a Position with Sources	Clearly stated thesis (position) statement	Cite a variety of reliable evidence to support position	Give specific examples	Use your own voice to give dominant impression, not the sources
Responding to Literature	Identifying themes, images, symbols, and figures of speech	Critique using literary analysis techniques and terms	Demonstrate both literal and critical reading	Written in the present tense
Responding to Visual Representations	Observations of image characteristics	Critique using observational analysis techniques and terms	Describe literal, suggested, and impressionistic meanings	Written in the present tense

