

Q: What is Nonfiction?

~~A: It is true~~

~~A: It is real~~


~~A: It is fact-based~~

A: It is not fiction
(nor drama, nor poetry)

Nonfiction- basic types

- ◆ **biography**- writing based on someone's life
- ◆ **autobiography**- writing based on the author's own life
- ◆ **sketch**- a moment in/summation of someone's life
- ◆ **memoir**- a moment in author's life
- ◆ **essay**- short piece about a subject
(French ESSAIS= "attempts")

3 items to remember when reading or writing an essay:

- ◆ Audience
 - ◆ Purpose
 - ◆ Tone
- 
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Purpose

- ◆ **Informative**- provides information, often on a particular field of study:
 - process explanation, definition, classification
- ◆ **Persuasive**- promotes a particular viewpoint on a topic
 - pro/con, opinion/editorial
- ◆ **Expository**- "exposes" a subject (e.g. an exposé)
 - cause/effect analysis, comparison/contrast, literary analysis

Purpose

- ◆ **Narrative-** to relate a series of events
 - Sports news stories (play-by-play)
- ◆ **Reflective-** to reflect upon life events and issues, such as parenting, maturity, marriage, etc.
 - Dave Berry, Garrison Keillor, et al
- ◆ **Descriptive-** to recreate a place or event mostly through imagery
 - Travelogues, some news articles

Audience

- ◆ Writers must be aware of audience
- ◆ Knowing intended audience can help readers of text understand meaning
- ◆ Audiences are varied, and will effect crafting of the essay
 - hostile or friendly?
 - engaged or apathetic?
 - well-informed or inexperienced?
 - familiar or unfamiliar?

Tone

- An author's/speaker's attitude, apparent through diction, structure, even punctuation
- Tone is dictated by these factors:

Purpose


Audience

Subject matter

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Style

A combination of language and use of techniques in a particular work

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Style: Diction

An author's choice of words

Neutral words vs. Loaded words

Brave —————> Valiant

Hot —————> Scalding

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Style: Organization

Chronological – presents information in time order, from first to last or last to first (memoir)

Classification- presents information on a part-by-part basis (travelogue)

Support/Discovery- thesis supported on a point-by-point basis, or reader discovers an *implied* thesis (research paper)

Style: Organization

Compare and Contrast – shows the ways in which two or more subjects are similar and different

Pro and Con- objectively weighs advantages and disadvantages

Cause and Effect – shows relationship among events

Problem and Solution – identifies a problem and then offers a solution

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Rhetorical Devices

Figurative Language

- ◆ **Simile**- comparison using "like" "than" "as"
 - Cold as ice; they fought like cats and dogs
- ◆ **Metaphor**- an abstract comparison
 - He's a pillar of the community
- ◆ **Personification**- giving life-like qualities to animals, inanimate things, & ideas
 - The pigeon-winged pages fluttered and died on the lawn

Rhetorical Devices

Anaphora

Repetition of one or more words at the head of consecutive phrases, clauses, or sentences:

“I came, I saw, I conquered.”

Antithesis:

Contrast within parallel phrases:

“Many are called, but few are chosen.”

Rhetorical Devices

◆Hyperbole:

exaggerating something as being more or less than it is.

"This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues."

◆Litotes:

understatement for ironic effect or to underline a passionate opinion:

"The assassin was not unacquainted with danger."

Rhetorical Devices

◆ **Syllepsis**

Divergent use of a word in two phrases:
“We must all hang together or assuredly we will all hang separately.”

◆ **Tricolon**

A series of three parallel words, phrases, clauses, or statements: “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

Rhetorical Devices

◆ Anecdote

A short narrative in a work of nonfiction used to prove a point

Similes & metaphors: for artistic effect

◆ Analogy

Analogies: to prove a point in a discussion or argument

Comparison in which an idea or a thing is compared to another thing that is quite different from it.

Rhetorical Devices

◆ Oxymoron

two opposite ideas joined to create an effect

◆ Paradox


A seemingly contradictory statement that nevertheless reveals a truth

Jargon

The vocabulary of a particular
field of study

or

pretentious vocabulary and
convoluted syntax that is
intentionally vague in meaning

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Satire

Writing that uses humor to illustrate fundamental flaws in society, dangerous religious, political, and social standards, as well as vices and human nature.

Commonly present if the tone doesn't seem to match the audience or purpose

Satirical Devices:

- ◆ Irony

 - verbal (sarcasm) and situational irony

- ◆ Hyperbole (exaggeration)

- ◆ Connotative words
(loaded words)

- ◆ Absurdity, farce, shock

Nonfiction Test- 10 Honors

- ◆ 1-20: Multi-choice questions about nonfiction works & terminology
- ◆ 21-25: match non-fiction devices with their examples in the works
- ◆ 26-30: match organizational strategies with writing scenarios
- ◆ 31-40: vocabulary (see back of this month's schedule)
- ◆ 41-45: reading comprehension of approx. 1 page
- ◆ Writing: discuss the theme of the 1 page passage; how is it developed, discussing the elements & devices (using terminology)