

Nonfiction Vocabulary

Genre: A group, type, or classification of Literature. (Short Story, Poetry, etc.)

Letter: A written communication from one person to another. In personal letters writer shares information, thoughts, and feelings with one other person.

Journal: A daily account of events and the writer's thoughts and feelings about those events.

Media accounts: Reports, explanations, opinions, and descriptions written for television, radio, newspapers, and magazines.

Essay: A short piece of nonfiction in which a writer presents a personal view of a topic.

Expository essay: A short, nonfiction piece that explains or gives information about a topic.

Autobiography: The story of a person's life written by that person. Includes key events of a person's life and reveals his struggles, values, and ideas.

Biography: The story of someone's life told by someone else. The subject is known and of interest to other people. Tells you the facts of the subject's life and explains what these facts mean.

Narrative essay: A short nonfiction composition that tells a story that may focus on a character other than the writer.

Descriptive essay: A short nonfiction composition that uses vivid sensory details to describe people or places.

Personal essay: A short nonfiction composition that gives an informal account of an episode from a person's own life.

Reflective essay: A short nonfiction composition that presents a writer's thought about ideas or experiences.

Persuasive essay: A short nonfiction composition where a series of arguments are presented to convince readers to believe or act in a certain way.

Humorous essay: A short nonfiction composition meant to amuse readers. Writers sometimes create humor by contrasting the reality of the situation with the character's mistaken views of what is happening.

Humorous commentary: Writing that contains amusing personal observations or opinions to help readers look at life a little less seriously.

Analytical essay: A short nonfiction composition that breaks down a big idea into parts. Helps the reader understand how the parts fit together and what they mean as a whole.

Tribute: A literary expression of gratitude or admiration to honor a special person. Describes a person's traits.

Facts: Statements that can be proved true with reliable sources. Can be verified.

Opinions: Beliefs or judgments. Not subject to verification.

Character traits: The qualities that make a person, or even an animal, an individual.

Memoir: A biographical piece usually written by a relative or personal friend of the subject. Can be one person's recollection or based on interviews and anecdotes of several people.

Anecdote: Brief story about an interesting, amusing, or strange event.