

### **Academic Modes of Writing**

There are three main modes, types, of academic writing. These types of writing are **argumentative**, **informational/explanatory**, and **narrative**. Each mode of writing has its own distinct features and purpose.

An author has decisions to make when beginning a piece of writing. A writer needs to consider the task, purpose and audience for whom he/she is writing. In other words, an author needs to think about:

- “What am I writing about?”
- “Why am I writing this?”
- “Who am I writing for?”

When the answers to these questions have been established, the purpose will determine the most effective form of writing. If the author’s intent is to TELL A STORY, **narrative** would be the mode of choice. TO EXPLAIN, DEFINE or PROVIDE INFORMATION, an author would use the **informational/explanatory** mode of writing. In order to ARGUE, PERSUADE or CONVINCe the audience of an opinion or point of view on a topic, text or issue, **argumentative** writing would be utilized.

Sources:

How Writing Works, Imposing Organizational Structure Within the Writing Process, Gloria Houston, Pearson, 2004

(Re)imagining Content-area Literacy Instruction,

Roni Jo Draper, Paul Broomhead, Amy Petersen Jensen, Jeffery D. Nokes, Daniel Siebert, Teachers College Press, 2010

Vancouver School District <http://www.vannet.k12.wa.us/inctr/LaWEB/modes.html>