Academic Writing Genres

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What is the difference between Academic Writing and other forms?

- In academic writing the goal is to prove <u>a</u> thesis that is stated early in the work.
- The idea is to convince the reader that the author's thesis statement is a valid one.

What is creative writing?

- Creative writing tells a story
- Creative writing takes the reader on a journey
- Creative writing helps keep the reader interested throughout the entire story.
- Creative writing is usually narrative writing

The Audience



Why would readers be interested in reading your essay?



Basic Essay Structure for all Essays

- Introduction (Hook+ Thesis Statement)
- Body paragraphs (3)
- Conclusion

The Hook What is it?

A hook is something that grabs the reader's attention so they WANT to read what <u>you</u> have written. It is usually the <u>first sentence</u> in the introduction.

How to catch the reader's attention



.....with a BIG fish



How to write a hook?

- Tell an anecdote (a story)
- Use a quotation
- Ask a question
- State an interesting statistic or fact
- Give a definition
- (The more interesting your hook, the more likely a reader will continue to read your essay and be open to your viewpoint)

Writing Genres at QU

(Spring Semester 2014)

- 1. Descriptive essay
- 2. Process essay
- 3. Opinion essay
- 4. Compare & Contrast essay
- 5. Cause and/or Effect essay
- 6. Problem and Solution essay
- 7. Argumentative essay
- 8. Research paper

The Descriptive Essay

- a. Description of person or place
 (Mr. Jones knew how to turn our thoughts into short stories and essays)
- **b.** Description of a sequence of events.(*Narrative*) (Set the scene like a play=The sun was shining and a gentle breeze blew across my face)
- c. Description of a process (First, secondly....)
- d. Describing and explaining

Compare & Contrast—Block Method

(4 paragraphs)

Introduction

- 1. Attract the reader's attention (Hook)
- 2. Provide some background information about your topic.
- 3. Identify the two things being compared and contrasted.
- 4. State the purpose for making the comparison and/or contrast.
- 5. State the thesis.

Body Paragraphs

- 1. In the first paragraph, discuss the similarities.
- 2. In the next paragraph, discuss the differences.

Conclusion

- 1. Paraphrase the thesis.
- 2. Summarize the main similarities and differences.
- 3. Paraphrase the importance of the topic.

Compare and Contrast-point by point method

Cause and/ or Effect Essay

- A cause and effect essay is a research essay that takes a particular problem and identifies the reasons for its existence and the effects.
- By saving your most important cause or effect until last, you leave your reader with a very strong impression.
- A cause or effect essay doesn't recommend how to change the situation or give opinions about why the situation is good or bad. It simply examines the reasons for it and the results

Cause and Effect Essay

Abu Dhabi is **a modern city** but also has **a modern problem:** traffic jams. In the early mornings, and again in the evening, around 8 pm, the streets are crowded with cars, taxis, and trucks. This essay will explain the causes of gridlock in Abu Dhabi and discuss the effects of this problem.

Abu Dhabi's traffic problems stem from **several causes**. The **rapid economic growth** of the emirate has enabled most residents to buy their own cars. This has put intense pressure on the road system, which although it is highly developed, has not been able to keep up with the expansion in population. Another cause is the absence of any major public transport system such as buses or trains. Because of this, residents rely on hordes of taxis, thus adding to the congestion. **Yet another contributing factor is** the layout of the island. This limits road construction.

The resulting gridlock has **several adverse effects**. **First of all is the frustration** and anger felt by road-users. This can result in tension and accidents, and, ironically, emergency vehicles may not even be able to reach the scene of such accidents. **Another effect is** the waste of time spent in traffic. This lowers productivity at work and contributes to reduced time at school and with family. **There are also additional costs** to the city in terms of air pollution and unnecessary fuel consumption. Shopping and daily errands become more of a chore, and the city suffers.

Commuters and road-users will need to cooperate with municipal authorities as they introduce measures to reduce congestion. However, Abu Dhabi has shown its ability to rise to challenges in the past, and most residents are confident that the city will still be an attractive place to live as the problem of traffic is addressed.

What are Problem Solution Essays?

- Problem Solution Essays explain a problem and give a detailed plan for how it can be solved.
- Step 1.Describe the problem.
- Step 2.Convince the reader the problem needs solving.
- Step 3.Explain the solution proposal.
- Step 4.Argue that this is the best solution.
- Step 5.Refute any objections.

Samples of Problem Solution Prompts

- 1. How can teenagers be convinced to drive more safely here in Qatar?
- 2. What can be done to prevent early divorce?
- 3. How can we persuade people to make healthy lifestyle choices like not smoking, exercising and keeping a correct BMI?

Steps to Writing a PS Essay

- 1. Describe the problem.
- 2. Convince the reader the problem needs solving.
- 3. Explain the solution proposal.
- 4. Argue that this is the best solution.
- 5. Refute any objections.

The Argument Essay

- What is an Argument Essay?
- Arguing a position essays seek to state a position on an issue and give several reasons, supported by evidence, for agreeing with that position.
- It should also contain 1 refutation paragraph.
- (It can be BP1, BP2 or BP3)

What does a refutation paragraph do?

- 1. A refutation paragraph acknowledges and summarizes the valid points of the opposing argument.
- 2. A good refutation paragraph will actually strengthen the essay by showing that the writer has thoughtfully considered both sides of the argument before arriving at the final argumentative position.
- 3. It makes the writers sound more broad-minded and thereby more effective.

Refutation and Counter-argument

Marine parks should be closed down because they are inhumane, and not friendly towards the environment. (Writing Prompt)

Sample

It has been argued that marine parks should not be closed down because these parks provide the public with the only opportunity to see these animals. Most Australians, so the argument goes, live in cities and never get the chance to see these animals. It is claimed that these marine parks allow the average Australian to appreciate their marine life. <u>However</u>, these arguments are not entirely true because dolphins, whales and seals can be viewed in the wild at a number of places on the Australian coast. Moreover, there are more places where these animals can be seen in the wild than in captivity. In addition, these places in the wild are free in comparison to the expensive fees charged by marine parks

Refutation

Counterargument

How to write an Opinion Essay?

- Introduction
 State the topic and your opinion clearly
- Main Body
 - BP1: viewpoint 1 & reason, example
 - BP2: viewpoint 2 & reason, example
 - BP3: viewpoint 3 & reason/ example
 - BP4: opposing viewpoint & reason/example
- Conclusion
- Summarise/restate opinion

Analyzing the Prompt

To analyze the prompt, it is useful to follow the following steps:

- 1. Identify the *topic*.
- 2. Identify the *instruction* (which often comes at the beginning) and decide what it means and what it requires you to do.
- 3. Check whether there is a *viewpoint* and if so, if it the same as your own.

Thank you for your attention

Any questions?