

English 8

Composition Terms

Compare

To compare is to examine (two or more objects, ideas, people, etc.) in order to note similarities and differences.

Example. To compare two pieces of cloth; to compare the governments of two nations.

Contrast

To contrast is to compare in order to show unlikeness or differences; note the opposite natures, purposes, etc., of.

Example. Contrast the political rights of Romans and Greeks.

Description

Description is the fiction-writing mode for transmitting a mental image of the particulars of a story. Together with dialogue, narration, exposition, and summarization, description is one of the most widely recognized of the fiction-writing modes. Description is more than the amassing of details; it is bringing something to life by carefully choosing and arranging words and phrases to produce the desired effect.

Example. Journal writing and poetry are often seen as examples of description writing.

Expository

Expository writing is a type of writing, the purpose of which is to inform, explain, describe, or define the author's subject to the reader. Expository text is meant to deposit information and is the most frequently used type of writing by students in colleges and universities. A well-written exposition remains focused on its topic and lists events in chronological order. Key words such as first, after, next, then and last usually signal sequential writing. Second-person pronouns may be used in such writing, if needed; for example, in a how-to essay a writer may choose to personalize the instructions with "you." However, the use of first-person pronouns should be avoided. Expository essays will not reveal the opinion of the writer.

Examples:

- Cooking instructions, driving directions, and instructions on performing a task.
- Sequencing- writing lists or steps in chronological order or how they happen.
- Descriptive essays use the senses of sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste to provide the reader with a mental image or feeling about the subject.
- Classification writing uses organizational strategy to arrange groups of objects or ideas according to a common theme.
- Comparison writing shows the similarities and differences between two or more subjects.
- Cause-and-effect writing, also known as analysis, identifies the reasons for an event or situation.

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Genre

Genre is the term used to describe a loose set of criteria for categorization of literature and speech, as well as many other forms of art or culture. Genres are formed by conventions that change over time as new genres are invented and the use of old ones are discontinued. Often, works fit into multiple genres by way of borrowing and recombining these conventions.

Examples. Tragedy, Drama, Comedy, Romantic, etc.

Narrative

A narrative is a story that is created in a constructive format that describes a sequence of fictional or non-fictional events. The word derives from the Latin verb *narrare*, "to recount." The word "story" may be used as a synonym of "narrative", but can also be used to refer to the sequence of events described in a narrative.

Examples. It can be a work of writing, speech, poetry, prose, pictures, song, motion pictures, video games, theatre or dance.

Persuasion/ Persuasive

Persuasion/persuasive technique is also known as an argument, is used to convince the reader of a writer's argument(s) relating to a debatable issue. Persuasive writing involves convincing the reader to perform an action, or it may simply consist of an argument(s) convincing the reader of the writer's point of view. Persuasive writing is one of the most used writing types in the world. Persuasive writers employ many techniques to improve their argument and show support for their claim. Another definition is "an essay that offers and supports an opinion."

Example. Nightlights should be made with adults in mind.

The above definitions constitute the terms related to composition that are examinable in English 8.

These definitions were gathered from public domain content at wikipedia.org, dictionary.com, for students in the Saint Thomas Aquinas High School English Department.

Composition refers to the skill or art of creating written works or pieces of literature. While this can be in the form of poetry, drama, essays or prose, the terms on this list would apply mostly to students' own writing.