

## Expository Style of Writing

The expository style of writing is a good choice when you want to tell readers what you know about a topic or show readers how to do something. The primary purpose of an exposition is to communicate information to an audience. Expository writing presents *objective* information such as facts and data without favoring any particular point of view.

You can use the expository style to write about almost any topic in almost any subject. Different types of expository writing are best for different purposes. Most types of expository writing can be used in almost any subject, but some are particularly useful in certain subjects. An exposition may use only one of type of expository writing, or it may use multiple types for different purposes within the essay.

You should be able to distinguish the following five types of expository writing:

- ***Cause-and-effect*** expositions explain why an event happens.
- ***Classify-and-divide*** expositions sort people, groups, places, events, ideas, actions, or objects into categories based on similarities and differences.
- ***Compare-and-contrast*** expositions explain the similarities and differences among two or more people, groups, places, events, ideas, actions, or objects.
- ***Definition*** expositions explain the most important characteristics of a person, group, place, event, idea, action, or object.
- ***Process*** expositions tell an audience how to complete an action.

Expository writing is probably the most common type of nonfiction. Research papers are usually written in the expository style because they report facts and data about a topic. You could also use the expository style in a book report, memorandum, presentation, poster, letter, or e-mail.