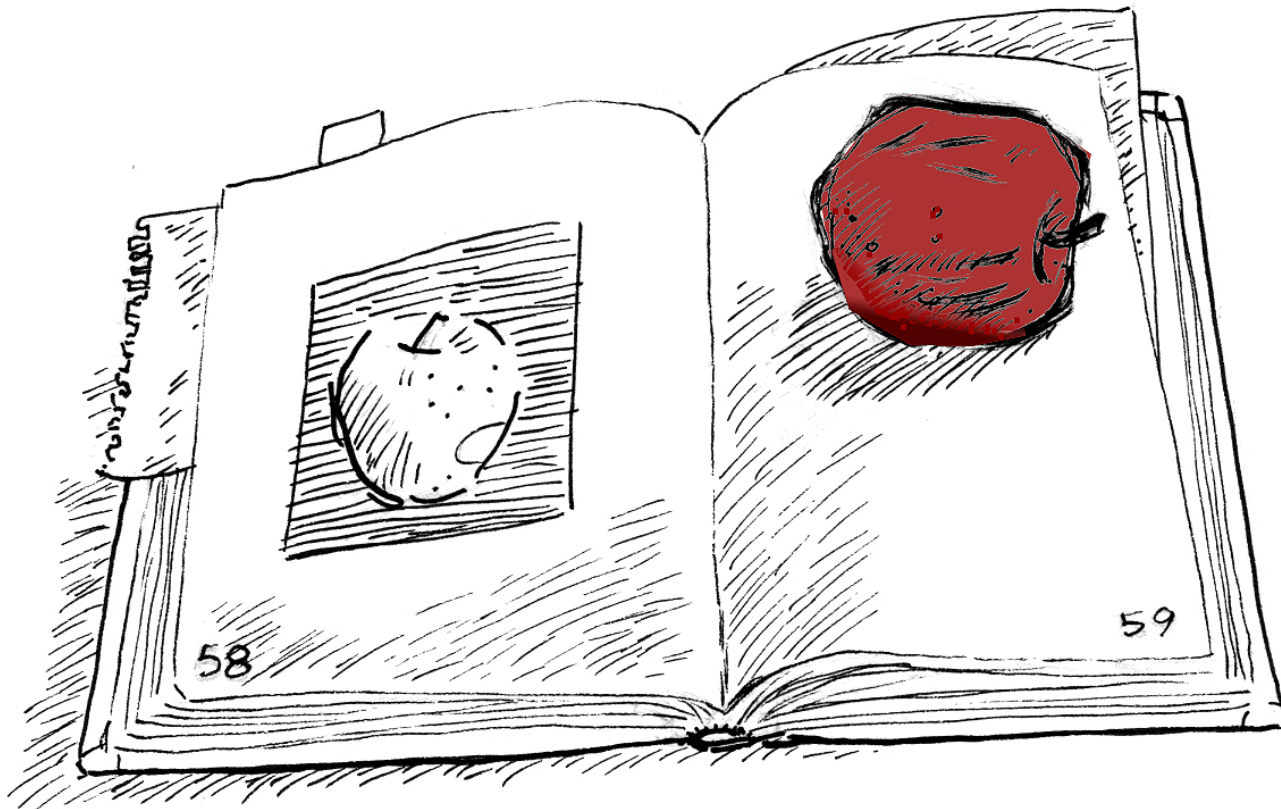


Essay Writing Modes



introduction

Mode—a method or a process or act of doing;
in a series modes direct to the same resolution.

introduction

There are seven *modes* we will examine through the course:

*(These are sometimes referred to as *Strategies*)*

Narration

Description

Comparison / Contrast

Cause / Effect

Definition

Illustration

•

Argumentative

Essay Writing Elements

Confirm the boundaries of the assignment:

- > date due
- > page restrictions or word count
- > prompt specifications

Determine:

- > purpose
- > audience
- > tone (formal or informal)
- > narrative voice



These four concepts are equally dependent on one another.

Any one of these categories can be a starting point for developing an essay for class

to break down these four concepts further >

Purpose

Although there exist numerous reasons for writing essays, the primary **purpose** of the assignments for this class serve to either:

inform,

persuade,

or speculate.

Audience

The general notion of a writer's **audience** takes on many different forms.

Even when writing a casual letter, it is best to keep in mind the intended recipient to aid in formulating your observations and defense strategies.

- Visualizing a member of your reading audience can aid building a strong paper.

- Likewise, it is important to consider:

What information does your audience already know on the topic?

What new information is necessary to provide?

What is your audience's attitude on the subject?

Are they sympathetic, neutral, or against your opinion?

What is your audience's background?

These questions help build defense strategies for Argument papers.

Tone

The answers to the above questions will also determine what **tone** or level of formality you should use in your essay.

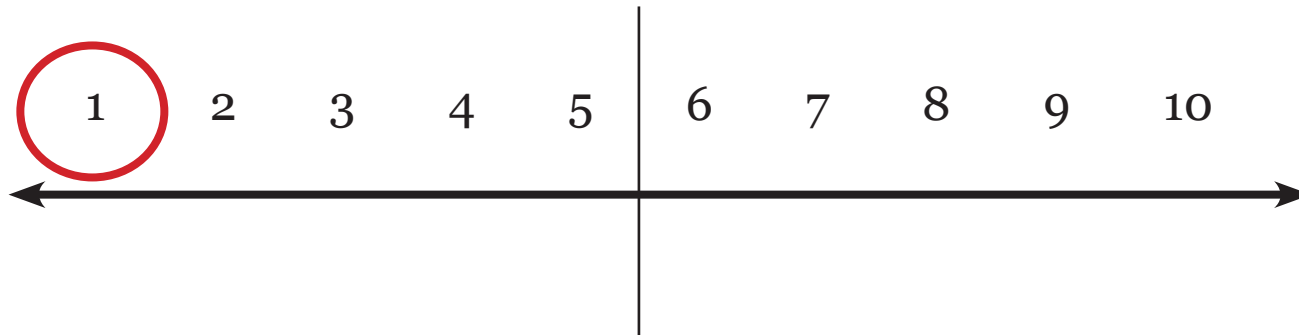
- *In addition*, consider:

Do you want to cite anger in your audience?

Do you want to motivate action as a community? – *or* –

Would a formal or informal tone work best in these situations?

Tone / Audience



academic, formal
research paper
speech

colloquial, informal
personal essay
chatty/ bar scene

Tone

All writing navigates around an author's **tone** of voice.

Emotional expressions help connect a writer to his/her audience.

- Some obvious, random, emotional states that can be expressed in writing:

anger

resentment

melancholy

sarcasm

hatred

sorrow

fear

humor

Narrative Voice

Most importantly, different situations call for different types of **narration**.

- Narrative voice (also known as points of view) is controlled by an author's pronouns selections:

first person: me, myself, I, we, our, ourselves, us

used in mostly **informal** (personal) situations such as Narration and

Description modes *< in fiction, Edgar Allan Poe utilized this form frequently*

second person: you, yours, your, yourself

used in both **informal** and **formal** situations; exclusively in

Process modes *< in poetry, Susan Mitchell utilized this form in her work "Wave"*

third person: he, she, it, they, them

used mostly in **formal** (academic research) situations

< commonly used in research; strengthens the voice of authority

Stream of Consciousness

Another unique type of Narration is termed stream of consciousness.

In itself, this narrative form is rather experimental, serving an eccentric approach to writing.

- It definitely does not suit an academic research paper.
- Utilized heavily in the Modernist movement which began in the early stages of the Twentieth Century
- It operates similarly to a free-write session. The author composes his/her material as a chain of thoughts; the reader is dropped into a prose-recording of a character's thought process as an event unfolds to the perspective of the main character.
- Strong examples of this style can be found within the works of William Faulkner, James Joyce, and Virginia Woolf.
- Primarily uses present tense for reader to fall into thought patterns of main character.