

THIRD ESSAY: EXPOSITORY WRITING

See also Chapters 9, 10 and 12 of your Reinking textbook, and <http://kareyperkins.com/classes/112/112modes.html>

“Expository” comes from the root word: “to expose” – expository writing “exposes” or merely tells us more about a topic. It is not necessarily meant to persuade or argue a point of view; it is meant to be informational. There are many different rhetorical modes to use when doing expository writing – we will learn three of them that are commonly used. You may choose from any of these three kinds of writing for your expository essay. I will also teach you process writing, an expository form as well, but you will not use process for this essay, as you will get a chance to do process writing in later classes. For this class, you can write a comparison-contrast, classification, or definition essay.

Comparison-Contrast (C/C): A C/C essay primarily CONTRASTS (shows differences in) **TWO** things – on the basis of their similarities. (Its opposite, the Analogy essay, will show similarities between two very different things.) For the comparison-contrast essay, you will

- Choose two things that are similar but not too similar and not too different
- Contrast them on the basis of certain similarities
- Your thesis must include both the subjects being compared and the bases of comparison; for example: “Male and female communication differs on the bases of topics, amount, and purpose.”
- Prefer one over the other for a persuasive C/C – be neutral for an informational C/C
- Organize either subject by subject or point by point
- Give each thing equal time (making a chart helps)

Example of a Comparison/Contrast chart on the subject of male communication vs. female communication:

BASES OF COMPARISON	MALE COMMUNICATION	FEMALE COMMUNICATON
Topics		
Amount		
Purpose		

Classification: Classification divides a group until **THREE OR MORE** categories. You can make a chart, similar to your C/C paper, in which you examine each category on similar bases, as you did in you C/C – but this time you have three or more items. Make a chart also helps to ensure that you cover all of the topics equally on each bases of comparison, and that you don’t leave anything out. For example, here is a chart on the subject of classification of World Religions:

Bases of Comparison	Judaism	Christianity	Islam	Hinduism	Buddhism
Deity or Deities					
Founders and Leader(s)					
Holy Texts and Sacred Literature					
Belief in AfterLife and World					
Ethics					
Rituals					

Definition: Definition defines a TERM or a PHRASE using criteria and examples that prove that criteria. The Introduction and thesis statement will state the **criteria** for the term, and the paragraphs that follow will have **examples of the criteria** that will help define the term. A good definition essay has examples of what each criterion for the term **IS** and also has examples of what the criterion for the term is **NOT**. Your thesis would include both the term being defined and its criteria.

ASSIGNMENT

See the lists of "writing suggestions" in your Reinking textbook, chapters 9, 10, and 12. In this essay, you will choose a topic that is of social or cultural or political scope and importance. So for example, you would not choose to compare two movies that are in the theaters today, but you might compare two movies – one from 50 years ago, one from today, and talk about how movies have changed and how that reflects society. You would not compare two computer programs or two cars for purchase – but if the topic of cars or computer programs related to certain observations about society, then you can use them as your topic. Rather than compare two college courses in your college, you might compare college life in another country with that of the United States, or college life many years ago with that of today. So as you look in the suggested topics on the pages listed above, only choose from the appropriate ones.

Post your thesis and outline (carried to the second level) in threaded discussions and peer review two of your students outlines. Based on peer's feedback to your own outline, develop it into a full rough draft, and bring THREE (3) copies to class next week for peer review and workshoping.

SUBMISSION FORMAT – for final drafts

We will be doing "portfolios" of all your essay work in this class (for each essay.)

The final draft of all your essays must be submitted to me in person in a **paper two-pocket folder**. Final essays are to be turned in during class, not sent to me via email, mailbox, or eCollege iOptimize. They will be word-processed, double-spaced, with a 10 and 12 point font and 1" to 1 1/2" margins. A **right-justified heading** with *your name, class and section, my name, date, and assignment name* must also be included at the top of the first page of your final draft. Example:

Your Name Here
English 112
For Prof. Perkins
Jan 17, 2010
1st Essay: Example

The essay portfolio folder should include the final draft and previous drafts, in reverse order, as follows. Make SURE you place whatever you want graded (presumably your final draft) FIRST in the portfolio:

- **final draft (placed first in the portfolio)**

The order of the rest of the work on your essay is less important, but here is a suggestion:

- **peer review sheet filled out by your peer (in-class)**
- **revised (second iteration) essay with peer review comments (posted on-line)**
- **the first rough/peer-edited draft(s) with written editing comments from instructor or peers**
- **a thesis/outline peer reviewed (posted on-line)**
- **two methods of invention (freewriting, brainstorming, etc.)**
- **[WWW.TURNITIN.COM](http://www.turnitin.com) report**

Essay will not be accepted without a www.turnitin.com report.

Work must be **secured** in the two-pocket folder. Do **NOT** turn in your work in a manila folder/envelope or 3 ring binder; it will not be accepted in that format and you will then be marked down for lateness. Assignments received after the deadline will receive a 10-point deduction per calendar day.

Portfolio folders should **not** contain MY assignments or copies of handouts given to you or from the web. Only YOUR completed work should be included. Failure to turn in work according to specifications will result in a 10% drop in your grade on that folder, or if it is sufficiently disorganized or enough work missing, a zero will be given.