**Nonfiction Guided Notes and Terms**

**9th Honors Lit/Comp, Fall 2019**

**Nonfiction is:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Based on some sort of fact.
* It can be verified.

**Diction:** author’s choice of words, esp. vocab, formal vs. informal

The words chosen tell about:

a) the actual experience b) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e) purpose as a writer

c) personal beliefs or prejudices d) background of writer

**Purpose:** the author’s intention or reason for writing.

a) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b) to create a mood or emotion

c) to tell about a series of events

d) to persuade the reader of something

**Bias:** Occurs when a writer makes a one-sided presentation. For example, when a writer ignores relevant

facts or by using emotional language that unfairly sways readers’ feelings.

**Perspective:** The viewpoint or opinion an author expresses about the subject, either directly or indirectly.

**Forms of nonfiction:**

1. **Report:** factual account of places or events
2. **Personal essays -** reveal a great deal about the writer. Its tone is conversational, sometimes even humorous, and there may be no attempt to be objective. It focuses on a writer’s feelings and responses to an experience.
3. **Essay:** Examines and discusses a focused topic, often including the writer’s personal viewpoint
4. **Biography:** Life story of another person, e.g. *Arthur Ashe Remembered*
5. **Autobiography:** Writer tells his/her own life story, e.g. White House Diary
6. **Memoir**: Form of autobiography, covers certain *time period* or *incident* in a person’s life
7. **Article:** Provides information about a topic, event, or person. They tend to be objective and answer the “what, when, and where” rather than what the author thinks or feels.
8. **Speech:** Written to be read aloud and presents a topic and may persuade, inform, explain, or entertain.

**Five major essay methods used in nonfiction:**

a) **Description**: portrait or impression of person, place, or object – uses images

b) **Narration**: writing that tells a true story, series of events in chronological order, eg. news stories,

biographies, autobiographies

c) **Exposition**: explains, informs, defines, clarifies, discusses ideas.

d) **Persuasion**: convinces reader to do something or to accept writer’s point of view

e) **Reflective**: expresses the writer’s thoughts and feelings in response to a personal experience or

to an idea.

**All essay forms answer questions:**

a) **Exposition:** What is it? How does it work?

b) **Description:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c) **Narration**: What happened?

d) **Persuasion:** How should I feel? What should I do?

e) **Reflective:** What do I think and what am I feeling about a personal experience?

**How does the writer try to interest us with the purpose of a piece?**

* **He or she uses all of the elements that are *also found in fiction* such as:**
  + Conflict
  + Characters
  + Irony
  + Comedy
  + And figures of speech

**Elements of/used in Nonfiction: (other terms to know)**

**author’s argument**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**cause and effect**: linking two related ideas, used in persuasion

**chronological order**: time order in writing, e.g. in how-to instructions

**connotation**: ideas we associate with the meaning of a word

**denotation**: dictionary definition of a word, e.g. lake = inland body of water

**evidence:** used to support, prove, clarify an argument, e.g. analogy or anecdote

**fact vs.truth:** something known to exist or to have happened vs. personal “truth”

**focus:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**hyperbole:** exaggeration or overstatement, often used for comic effect, e.g. Mark Twain

**inference:** educated guess, conclusion or judgment from evidence

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Text:**  writing that provides knowledge to guide & educate, e.g. magazine &

newspaper articles, instruction manuals, textbooks, web sites, atlases, journals

**journals:** opinions, comments, & thoughts of people (usually from another time)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **language**: not figurative, uses ordinary meaning of words, e.g. jump in the pool

**objective**: unbiased, impartial, based on facts, impersonal, not subjective

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: personal attitude, belief, or judgment

**propaganda**: info or ideas spread to promote or injure a cause, group, nation, etc.

**subjective:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**tone:** writer’s attitude toward his subject and audience, formal vs. informal, serious vs. playful,

bitter or ironic.

**slice of** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:** A [realistic](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/english/realistic#realistic__2) [representation](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/english/representation#representation__2) of [everyday](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/english/everyday#everyday__2) experience in a film, play, or book.

**e.g.** is an abbreviation of the Latin words **exempli gratia,** which means **“for the sake of example”.**

**e.g.** is used to clarify an idea by giving supporting examples to the topic.

**i.e.** is an abbreviation of the Latin words **id est**, which means **“that is”** (or “in other words”)

**i.e.** is used to clarify a topic by giving more information to explain the first part of a sentence.

For example, you may write, “Louise has minimum day, i.e., she leaves school after 5th period.”