

**Supplementary
Guidance
Genres of Writing**

Genres of Writing

These are the typical features of the main genres found in written English. However, there are many examples of mixed genres: for example, advertisements are often descriptive followed by persuasion, or a mixture of the two, as the product is described in persuasive terms. A biography can also be a narrative text.

It is expected that children will have the opportunity to experience and rehearse the full range of genres during each academic year (see genre guide).

The notion of genre includes: purpose and features of layout as separate things ie. a letter may be written in very similar format for very different purposes (description, recount, persuasion, even instruction – if we give the reader directions to reach our house), and the language used will reflect these different purposes. Poetry is sometimes viewed as a separate genre.

Note: most of the functional writing genres could appear in an imaginative context, e.g. writing the recipe for a witch's spell would involve the genre of Instructions.

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Genre	Purpose	Framework	Language Features	Examples
<p><u>Recount</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal retellings, eg. Diary, autobiography, some letters Imaginative recounts 	To tell what happened, to retell events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation (who, where, when) Series of events in time-order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal comment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of nouns to identify people, animals and things linking words to do with time e.g. 'later', 'after', 'before' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> simple past tense <ul style="list-style-type: none"> action verbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter Autobiography Diary or journal Newspaper report Magazine article Science experiment
<p><u>Descriptive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of a person, place or thing: character sketch, description of setting, object <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poem 	To portray a person, place, or thing in such a way that the reader can visualise the topic and enter into the writer's experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction Supporting descriptive details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> elaborate use of sensory language rich, vivid, and lively detail figurative language such as simile, hyperbole, metaphor, symbolism and personification <i>showing</i>, rather than <i>telling</i> through the use of active verbs and precise modifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poetry: e.g. Haiku, Verse, limerick Description/comparison of settings Written observations (e.g. Science experiment) Observations from first-hand experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character descriptions/comparison
<p><u>Narrative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured story using language, description and character appropriate to style. 	To entertain, create, stimulate emotions, motivate, guide, teach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> orientation (introduce main characters in a setting of time and place) complications/problems (main characters find ways to solve the problem) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> defined characters descriptive language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dialogue usually past tense First or third person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fairy tales, legends, myths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plays science fiction cartoons/comic strip adventure stories
<p><u>Information Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-fiction information sharing 	To organise and present information about a class of things.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> general statement identifying the subject of the information report bundles of information relating to such things as: habits, behaviour, colour shape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> summary(optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generalised participants impersonal objective language timeless present tense <ul style="list-style-type: none"> technical terms paragraphs with topic sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter/email topic based school project/ non-fiction book <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tourist guide book encyclopaedia entry information leaflet magazine article Book review

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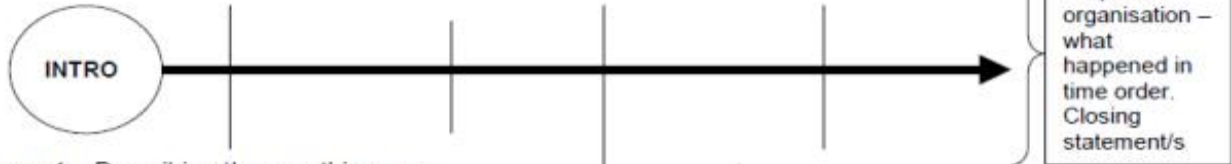
Genre	Purpose	Framework	Language Features	Examples
<p><u>Procedure/instructions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Succinct, structured 'how to' information sharing 	<p>To tell how to do or make something</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> goal materials method or steps evaluation (optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of action verbs (turn, put) linking words to do with time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tense is timeless use of precise vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recipes, instructions on packaging game rules science experiments, instruction manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timetable Route finder Posters, notices signs
<p><u>Explanation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing in structured simplistic form that develops reader understanding 	<p>To explore how things work or how something came to be - to explain phenomena</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a statement about what is to be explained explanation sequence (several statements of reason explaining and elaborating on the topic) concluding statement (optional) Explanations may include visual images such as flow charts or diagrams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cause and events / relationships simple present tense generalised non-human participants passive voice eg 'is driven by' complex sentences technical language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encyclopaedia entry Non-fiction book Technical manual Question & answer articles/leaflets Write up of Science experiment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi modal
<p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of a set of ideas 	<p>To present arguments and information from different viewpoints(non-biased), and then, usually, to conclude in favour of one point of view</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement of the issue & a preview of the main arguments Arguments for/against & supporting evidence (Alternatively, argument/counter-argument, one point at a time) Recommendation – summary and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simple present tense use logical connectives, but usually more formal ones than Persuasion texts, e.g. 'therefore', 'however', 'nevertheless' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaflet/article giving balanced account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> News article Advertisement Catalogue Travel brochure Pamphlet from a pressure group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> News paper article/magazine article Poster or flier Book blurb Letter to editor or editorial

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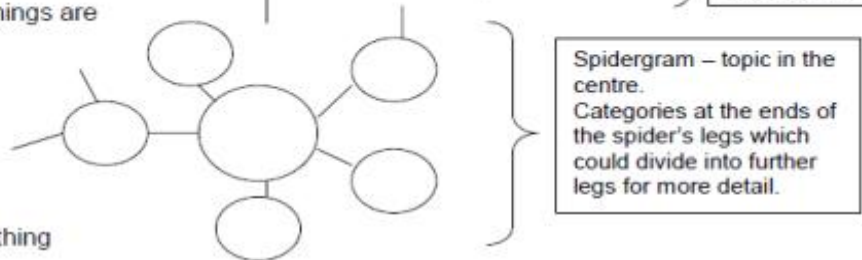
Genre	Purpose	Framework	Language Features	Examples
<p><u>Persuasive Texts/arguments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of a set of ideas with the intention of changing perceptions 	<p>To argue (or persuade) a case for or against a particular point of view or position</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • statement or position • points in the argument with evidence and examples (elaboration) • reiteration - restate the position in light of the arguments presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generalised participants • linking words associated with reasoning eg 'therefore' • nominalisation (actions become things). Eg. 'to pollute' becomes 'pollution' • evaluative language eg 'important', 'significant', 'valuable' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter of protest/complaint; poster advertising sun-smart behaviour; • propaganda; advertisements; • suggestions for environmental improvements; • magazine article

The Six Text Types – Skeletons for Writing

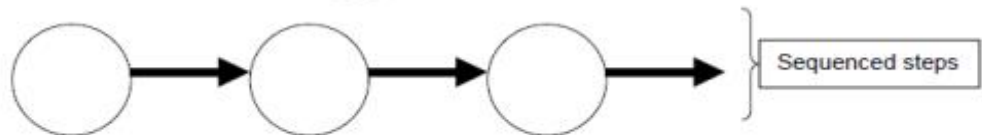
Recount – retelling events in time order



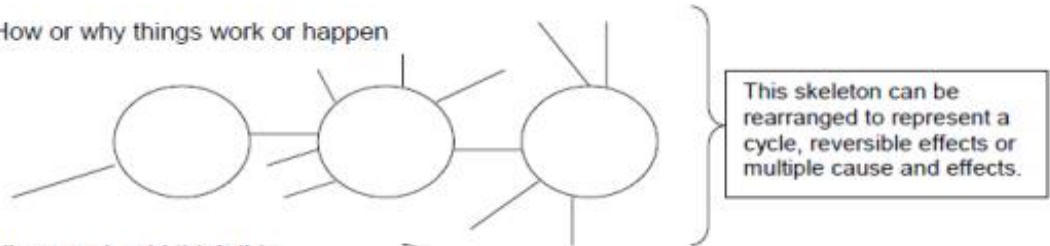
Report – Describing the way things are



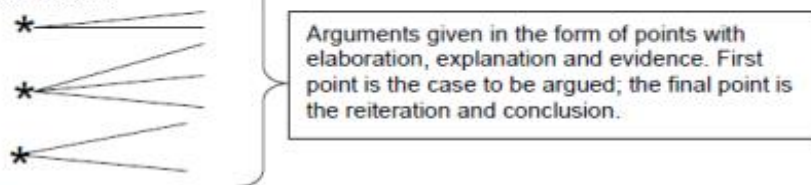
Instruction – How to do something



Explanation – How or why things work or happen



Persuasion – Why you should think this



Discussion – Reasoned argument

