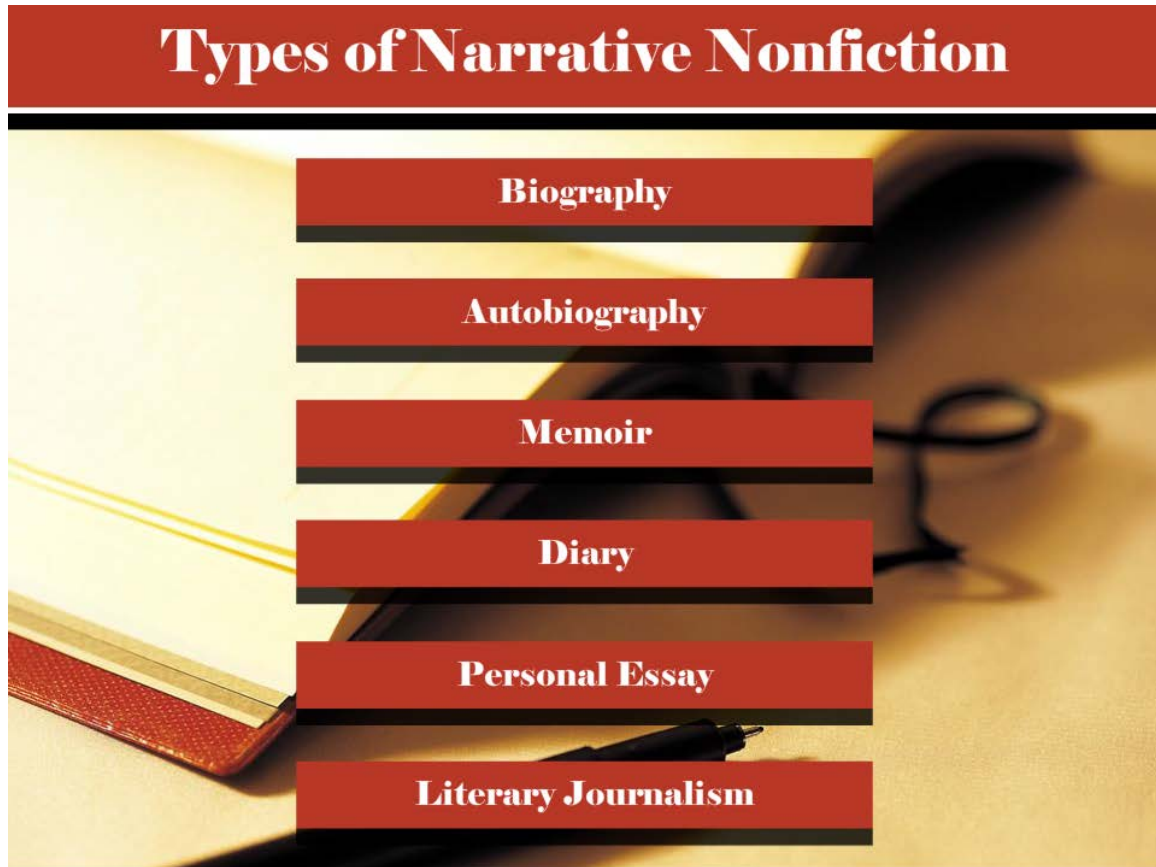


Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 1 Content: Types of Nonfiction

Introduction



When exploring a work of narrative nonfiction, it is helpful to be familiar with the common types of narrative nonfiction, such as biography, autobiography, memoir, diary, personal essay, and literary journalism. In this interactivity, you will examine different types of narrative nonfiction and understand their defining characteristics. Click each of the tabs to learn more.

Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 1 Content: Types of Nonfiction

Biography

Types of Narrative Nonfiction

Biography

A biography is a nonfiction work that relates the life story of a person as written by someone else. Biographies generally require extensive research by the author. However, biographies as a literary work seek to tell the stories of real events and real people in an engaging way rather than simply presenting the "dry" facts about people's lives.

[Return to Menu](#)

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Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 1 Content: Types of Nonfiction

Autobiography

Types of Narrative Nonfiction

Autobiography

An autobiography is a nonfiction work that relates the life story of the author. The prefix *auto-* comes from the Greek word meaning "self." Autobiographies generally provide deep insights into life and human nature because they are written by authors who can reflect on prior life experiences from a perspective of wisdom and distance.

[Return to Menu](#)

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Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 1 Content: Types of Nonfiction

Memoir

Types of Narrative Nonfiction

Memoir

A memoir is a collection of memories from an author's life. A memoir differs from an autobiography in that an autobiography tells the entire story of a person's life, usually in chronological order. Autobiographies also typically involve extensive research to verify dates, places, names, etc. On the other hand, a memoir has a more narrowed focus and tends to rely solely on the personal recollections of the author.

[Return to Menu](#)

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Module 9: Nonfiction

Topic 1 Content: Types of Nonfiction

Diary

Types of Narrative Nonfiction

Diary

A diary is a collection of autobiographical entries that relate the events of the author's life. Diaries often include personal experiences, reflections, and feelings. The defining difference between diaries and other forms of autobiography is that diaries are written without an intended audience. Diaries are usually private writings that, if later published by the author or someone else, can provide insightful, unfiltered perspectives in a historical context.

[Return to Menu](#)

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Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 1 Content: Types of Nonfiction

Personal Essay

Types of Narrative Nonfiction

Personal Essay

A personal essay is a brief, loosely structured treatment of a topic based on personal experiences from the author's life. Personal essays reveal the author's thoughts and feelings about a subject, usually conveying a theme or message. Although personal essays are written with a specific purpose in mind, they tend to be less structured than formal essays, and they use an informal tone with the reader.

[Return to Menu](#)

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Module 9: Nonfiction
Topic 1 Content: Types of Nonfiction

Literary Journalism

Types of Narrative Nonfiction

Literary Journalism

Literary journalism is a form of creative nonfiction that combines factual reporting with narrative techniques traditionally associated with fiction. It requires research and/or interviews in order to incorporate factual data or relevant viewpoints. Unlike objective reporting, the stories featured in literary journalism are sometimes told through subjective narrators who add their own personal commentary. Scenes and conversations may be fictionalized or recreated in order to provide an engaging narrative.

[Return to Menu](#)

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