

Text Types

Based on *English K-6*, 1998

All text types may be presented as either *oral* or *written* texts.

Literary Text Types ...

Narrative

A narrative tells a story. It is one way that it helps us make sense of the events and happenings in our world. Its purpose is to create, stimulate emotions, motivate and teach. Some examples of narratives are: picture books, short stories, novels, ballads, films, television programs.

Steps in the formation of a *narrative* are

1. orientation
2. complication
3. sequence of events
4. resolution
5. comment or coda (sometimes)

Literary Recount

The recount reconstructs events and tells the reader or listener what has happened and in the order of what has happened. The Literary recount usually has expressions of attitude and feeling usually made by the narrator about the events. Its purpose is to entertain by dealing with a sequence of events. Some examples are: picture books, short stories, novels, ballads, films, television programs.

Steps in the formation of a *literary recount* are

1. an orientation providing information about who; where; and when
2. a record of events usually recounted in logical order
3. personal and / or evaluative remarks that are interspersed throughout the record of events.
4. a reorientation that "rounds off" the sequence of events

Observation

Observations record events and respond to them in a personal way. Observation does not have a sequence of events. Some example include; early writing of children, brainstormed notes, some poems, a mind map

Literary Description

The literary description describes, in literary terms, natural, physical, cultural and individual phenomena. They focus our attention on characteristic features of a particular thing. Whilst descriptions can function as a stand alone text, they may be incorporated into another text type to describe someone or something in detail.

Features of *Descriptions* include:

1. an introduction to the subject of the description
2. characteristic features of the subject - physical appearance, qualities, habitual behaviour, significant attributes

There maybe also some optional evaluation interspersed through the text and an optional concluding comment.

Personal Response

Personal Response summarises and responds personally to a text.

Features of *Personal Response* are;

1. Context - giving the background information about the text
2. Opinion / Reaction - this explores the qualities and effectiveness of the text, expressing personal feelings.

Review

The review is used to summarise and analyse a response to literary texts.

Features of the *Review* are;

1. Context - this gives the background information eg author, type of work, setting, brief synopsis
2. Text description - this describes the main characters in the pattern of their relationships. It also deals with some key incidents selected because they may give further insight into characters and the theme of a text.
3. Judgement - this is where the writer or speaker evaluates the work by giving an opinion or making a recommendation.

Factual Text Types ...

Factual Description

To describe a particular living, non-living or natural phenomenon.

Features of the *Factual Description* are;

1. an introduction to the subject of the description
2. characteristic features of the subject - physical appearance, qualities, habitual behaviour, significant attributes

Information Report

Information Reports present factual information about a class of things. Reports tend to use general classifications and are usually concerned with descriptions, qualities, parts, functions, habits and behaviours.

Features of the Information Report are;

1. a general opening statement identifying the subject matter of the information report, perhaps defining and classifying it
2. description and clusters a facts organised in paragraphs around topic sentences. This information can contain features, behaviours or types.
3. Concluding statement summing up the report.

Procedure

Procedures provide instructions or directions on how to do something. (This is written in present tense). It focuses on how to do something.

Steps in the formation of a *procedure* are;

1. aim or purpose (goal)
2. list of materials to achieve the goal
3. steps to accomplish the goal. These are a series of steps or actions in order. Photographs or diagrams can be used to make the instructions clearer.

Procedural Recount

Procedural Recounts record in sequential order the steps taken to achieve a specific goal or outcome, after doing a procedure. (This is written in past tense). It focuses on how things *were* done

Steps in the formation of a *procedural recount* are;

1. aim or purpose (goal)
2. list of materials used to achieve the goal
3. steps used to accomplish the goal. These are a series of steps or actions that were taken in order. Photographs or diagrams can be used to make the instructions clearer.

Factual Recount

The purpose of a factual recount is to record a series of events in the sequence in which they occurred. They can be used a great deal in recording history or past events.

Steps in the formation of a *factual recount* are;

1. An orientation providing information about "who", "where", "when"
2. a record of events recounted in chronological order
3. personal comments and / or evaluative comments which can be interspersed throughout the recount
4. a re-orientation, which rounds off the sequence of events.

Explanation

Explanation involves describing the why or how something occurs in scientific and technical fields. Often it includes a description. The emphasis is on process rather than things.

Steps in the formation of an *explanation* are;

1. an identifying statement about what is to be explained - the statement of the phenomenon
2. a series of events known as the "explanation sequence" - the series of events may be related according to time, cause or according to both relationships.
3. a concluding statement (this is optional)

Exposition

Exposition (argument or persuasion) provides the presenter's opinion on an issue and sequenced arguments to support that opinion, eg an editorial, advertisement, letters to the editor ...

Steps in the formation of an *exposition* are;

1. statement of position - defining the topic and setting parameters of the argument (the case)
2. justification of the argument in logical order. Each argument stage consists of a point and elaboration of the point supported with evidence.
3. summing up of the argument - a reinforcement of the position in light of the arguments presented

Discussion

Discussion provides a diversity of opinions on an issue. Discussions allow us to explore various perspectives before coming to an informed decision.

Steps in the formation of a *discussion* are;

1. a statement outlining the issue, often accompanied by some background information about the issue.
2. arguments for and against, including evidence from different points of view.
- 3., a conclusion, which might sum up both sides or might recommend in favour of one particular side.