

## Learning About Nonfiction

**Nonfiction** deals with real people, real events, real places, and ideas. A nonfiction author chooses a method of **organization**. He or she also uses a particular **tone** (his or her attitude toward the audience and the subject) and **voice** (his or her distinctive way of speaking, based on word choice, tone, sound devices, pace, and grammatical structure). This chart names and describes some common types of nonfiction writing:

<b>Type of Nonfiction</b>	<b>Description and Characteristics</b>
Letter	writing addressed to a person or organization
Memoir or journal	writing about one's life that contains thoughts and reflections
Web log (blog)	a journal posted and frequently updated online
Biography	someone's life story written by another person
Autobiography	one's own life story
Media account	writing for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio
Essay or article	a short work on a topic

**A. DIRECTIONS:** Write the type of nonfiction that would be most appropriate for the item.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. the story of the writer's life, from childhood to the present
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. a daily online account of a writer's experiences as a restaurant chef
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. a short work meant to persuade readers to visit Australia
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. a request for information about a museum exhibit
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. a description of the causes and effects of a local fire
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. reflections on the experience of growing up on a farm
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. the story of the life of a noted jazz musician
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. a daily account of a surgeon's thoughts about his or her experiences

**B. DIRECTIONS:** Read each sample of nonfiction writing. Indicate whether the author's tone is formal or informal, and give reasons for your answer.

Over five weeks, the research team observed a variety of fossils and recorded their findings in a daily journal. The scientists used this journal as the basis for a detailed report on the area's prehistoric animal and plant life.

**Tone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Explanation:** \_\_\_\_\_