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| ***TYPE OF ESSAY*** | **Description** | **Author’s Purpose** | **Text Elements** | **Style** | **Sample Topics** |
| **Descriptive** | Presents sensory details, (sight, sound, smell, taste, feel) about a person, place, event or thing | To create a strong impression and “paint” a picture with words in the reader’s mind | Figurative language such as similes, metaphors, imageryFocus on mood | Tends to be non-academic | -Sunlight sets the mood for my day-A day in the life of a smoker-Snowshoeing in Nakina |
| **Narrative** | Tells a story about an event or experience in the writer’s life | To reveal a life lesson or insight | ConflictAction and plotFigurative languageMood | Tends to be non-academic | -Why I became a smoker-My week camping in the sun-The time I got a concussion |
| **Expository** | Objectively presents researched facts, statistics, expert opinions, details and examples | To inform, explain, describe, or define the subject | Thesis statementClear introduction, supporting body paragraphs, and conclusion | Can be academic or non-academic depending on context, (e.g. university assignment or magazine feature) | The effect of smoking on a person’s healthThe effects of sunlight on a person’s healthThe effects of concussions on student learning |
| **Argumentative/Persuasive** | Presents evidence, reasoning, and arguments to support an opinion or point-of-view | To convince readers of an opinion or move readers to perform an action | Thesis statementClear introduction, supporting body paragraphs, and conclusion | Can be academic or non-academic, depending on context | It should be illegal for persons under 18 to use tobacco productsAll schools should have a source of natural sunlight |