

MODES OF WRITING ALIGNED TO THE 2007 MAINE LEARNING RESULTS

The revised Maine Learning Results document is organized by standard, performance indicator, and descriptor. In English Language Arts, expectations for writing will be found in the B standard, writing, and the D standard, language. B Writing includes the following modes of writing:

B 2: narrative. [writing to tell a story] Narrative writing tells a story or recounts a sequence of events. The structure is organized either in the order events happened or in some other logical sequence. Narratives can be true or take creative license. The reader is kept engaged through effective use of story elements (setting, characters, problem/solution). Narratives may also include messages, morals, or lessons as part of their purpose.

B 3: Argument/Analysis. [writing to inform] This type of writing is expository. The writing focuses primarily on the *subject-matter* development and adding to the knowledge of the topic presented. Students write essays that are academic in nature and which develop a clear position with sufficient supporting evidence. Students draw conclusions about information gathered by reading, listening, or observing and demonstrate how they arrived at that conclusion by the logical and well-organized presentation of the evidence that informed and shaped their thinking. A student's thought process is made explicit through writing.

B 4: Persuasive. [writing to persuade] While this type of writing is *related* to argument, it is distinctly different in that an academic argument is intended primarily to inform while persuasive text is intended to cause the reader to think, act or feel a certain way. The author of persuasive text will use rhetorical devices effectively to accomplish this goal. The primary focus of persuasive writing emphasizes the *reader*.

B 5: Practical Application [writing to perform a task or for common use] This is where students develop letter and resume writing skills, fill out forms such as work or college applications, and write procedural instructions (as opposed to writing to inform in B3).