

not always. For a detailed discussion of writing arguments, see Chapter 11.

- **Proposal argument:** Define a problem, give a solution, explain how the solution can be implemented, and respond to possible objections to the solution. (See pp. 113–16 and 7 pp. 482–90 for two proposal arguments that involve research.)

- **Position argument:** Seek to convince readers to agree with your position on a debatable issue such as lowering the drinking age or requiring military service. A position argument introduces the issue, conveys your position in a thesis statement, makes claims and gives evidence to support your position, and responds to views opposed to your own. Depending on the assignment, evidence may be personal or gathered from research or both. (A type of position argument is literary analysis, described on the previous page, in which you make a case for your interpretation of a work of literature. See 8 pp. 420–22 for an example.)
- **Evaluation argument:** Judge whether something is good or effective. A common type of evaluation argument is a critical analysis of a text or visual, described on the previous page. (See pp. 97–99 for an evaluation of a text.) Reviews of books, movies, exhibits, and so on are also evaluation arguments.

3 Informative writing

Informative writing seeks to teach readers about a subject. When you write to inform, you explore a subject in depth and provide information that readers may not know. Informative writing often, but not always, involves research. In the social, natural, and applied sciences, informative writing can include summaries and case studies in addition to research-based writing.

- **Informative essay:** Explain a subject such as a situation or a process. Typically, an informative essay begins with an introduction and a thesis statement that previews your major points. Then the body paragraphs support the thesis with evidence. Depending on the assignment, an informative essay may focus on a nonpersonal subject (see the essay in 1 pp. 22–23 on money in college football), or it may arise from personal experience and thus overlap the personal essay (see below).
- **Informative research paper or report:** Draw on research to explain a subject, answer a question, or describe the results of a survey or an experiment. This genre includes research papers, research reports, and laboratory reports, all described on the facing page. (See 8 pp. 516–20 for a sample research report.)

4 Personal writing

A personal essay often narrates the writer's experience or describes a person or place, usually in vivid detail. What makes a

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