

The Interpretive Essay

Interpretive writing is required most often in English, history, literature, philosophy, and religion courses. It requires you to think critically and then present your ideas to a reader in an objective and/or subjective fashion, depending on the writing required. Interpretive writing is primarily concerned about what you feel, how you analyze a subject, and how you present the results of your thinking. You are concerned with making a case for your ideas to the reader, being informative and persuasive, while at the same time being interesting.

Throughout your interpretive paper are your views, arguments, and subjective opinions. Of course, the manner and degree by which you are persuasive and critical is determined by the specific format required for the assignment.

Interpretive writing is personal writing. Consequently, knowing your purpose and audience for writing is crucial. Also, you need to be fully aware of the instructor's expectations for your writing assignment, and you need to know how to utilize different writing formats. When unsure, ask questions, and take full advantage of the services of The Reading Writing Center.

Types of interpretive writing include: Summaries, analyses and critiques, research papers, and essays.