

## Elements of Style

An author's style is the product of the rhetorical strategies the author uses. Any choice an author makes will be part of that author's style. We'll start our study of style with a few of the most significant elements.

STYLE- the way in which an author *presents* his/her content (as opposed to the content itself)

## Modes of Discourse

First of all, "discourse" means "verbal expression in speech or writing." So these are modes (or forms) of verbal expression. The mode an author chooses to use can be part of his or her style. Your textbook uses these modes as an organizations structure.

### Mode

### Key Elements of Structure

#### **Narration**

tells a story, answers the question "What happens next?"

#### **Description**

describes, answers the question "How does this thing (or person, or place, or idea, or event) feel, look, smell, taste, and/or sound?"

#### **Argument**

takes a position and defends it

#### **Exposition**

explains something

Sub-modes of **exposition** include:

Process	(how something works or how to do something)
Comparison/Contrast	(how two things are alike or different)
Cause and Effect	(how one thing leads to another)
Classification	(how things are grouped together)
Definition	(how things are defined or labeled)
Analysis	(how elements fit together to form a whole)
Exemplification	(how examples are used to support and clarify)