

Levels of Writing

Basic Features

Specific Skills

High Level

- Invention and analysis
- Topic, subject matter, theme
- Thesis
- Vantage point
- Attitude or tone

Autobiographical significance

Perspective on the subject
Probing analysis

Role for the writer
Fair and impartial presentation

Cubing, dialoguing, dramatizing, looping

Journaling
Questioning
Reading strategies

Purpose and Audience

Mid Level

- Structure and organization
- Character detail
- Place detail
- Scene and dialogue
- Image and description

Clear organized plan
Readable plan
Informative intro to opposing positions

Well-told story
Appropriate explanatory strategies

Vivid description
Detailed information

Outlining, clustering, listing
Paragraphing and subheadings

Creating tension and a climax
Orienting statements—time and space
Topic sentences
Transitions—time, space, logic
Verb tense
Narrating a process
Defining
Classifying
Comparing and contrasting—analogy

Naming, detailing, comparing
Sensory description

Close Level

- Word choice—nouns and verbs
- Sentence structure
- Sound and rhythm
- Grammar and punctuation
- Citations

Smooth integration of sources

Word repetition and parallel structure
Pronoun reference and synonyms
Simile and metaphor
Specific narrative action
Verb tense
Passive versus active voice