

Coherence—ideas stick together because they’re arranged in an order that makes sense to the reader. Writer often uses transitions to show how ideas are connected.

Logic—supports statements with reasons and evidence. A text is illogical when it doesn’t provide reasons back with evidence.

Qualities of Nonfiction

Consistency—details focus on the main idea and are in agreement with it.

Unity—all of a text’s details support the main idea.

Elements of Nonfiction

Chronological order—events occur in the order which they happened. This type of pattern usually makes cause and effectrelationships clear.

Logical order—detail are classified into related groups, such as compare and contrast.

Order of importance—some non-fiction is presented with facts in order, from most to least important, for example.

Types of Nonfiction

Personal essay—generally reveals a lot about the writer’s traits; the tone is often conversational and focused on an experience.

Non-fiction—purpose is to provide information with elements including main idea, repetition, parallel grammatical forms, some type of order and sense of cohesion, unity and consistency.

Biography—an account of a person’s life written by another person.

Autobiography—a person’s account of his or her own life.

Essay—a short piece of non-fiction prose that exams a single subject

Formal essay—serious, objective writing that informs readers about a topic, usually objective.

Speech—information delivered orally to an audience.