

Types of Nonfiction Writing

Identify the main purpose of each passage below. Write a D if it is descriptive, E if it is explanatory, P if it is meant to persuade, or N if it is part of a narrative. As a hint, there are two of each type.



1. _____ It is important to learn to give to others. So every child who receives an allowance should be taught to put some aside to give to charity. Work together with your child to choose a charity that is important to them and determine how much to give. That way your child will feel more responsibility and develop a giving attitude.
2. _____ Ann-Marie curled her toes in the cool sand. The waves gently lapped at the shore, gulls screeched overhead, and the setting sun seemed to be slowly easing itself into the ocean for a leisurely swim.
3. _____ Raven hurried to the library. She dumped her due books in the slot, then rushed to her favorite section. Halfway there, she heard her name. Turning around, she saw someone she thought she'd never seen again.
4. _____ When Benjamin Franklin was young, he worked as an apprentice in his brother's printshop. But he didn't like it there, so ran away before his apprenticeship was over. He fled to Philadelphia and eventually set up his own print shop, published a newspaper, and wrote many articles.
5. _____ To frost sugar cookies follow these steps. Put one egg white into a bowl. Beat until light and fluffy. Add 150 grams of powdered sugar, and mix until blended. If you wish, add a few drops of food coloring. Put the icing in a piping bag and pipe designs on your cookies once they've cooled completely.

6. _____ The rain poured down, soaking everything. The trees bowed down under the deluge of drops. The fence and flagstone pathway shone like new. Mr. Ledbetter watched the vicious precipitation strip the blooms off his beloved roses.
7. _____ The town council should build a park at Oak Street and 17th Avenue. Currently, this is four abandoned square blocks where people dump trash and old furniture and where rats breed. We have many volunteers willing to clean it for free. Planting it with grass and a few trees, adding some play equipment, and installing a couple of picnic tables would transform this disgusting area into a delightful place for children and families to spend an afternoon.
8. _____ There are eight planets in our solar system, and they can be divided into two main groups. The inner planets—Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars—are smaller and made of rock. The outer planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune—are sometimes called the gas giants because they are bigger and mostly made of gas.