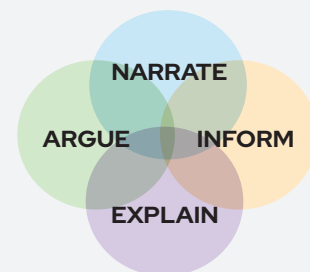


Discovering Text Purposes Through the WIDA Key Language Uses

Help students identify the purpose of a text and understand how authors communicate meaning through different genres. Aligned to the WIDA Key Language Uses Cards, this tool supports students in recognizing the four key text purposes—Narrate, Inform, Explain, and Argue—by exploring each genre’s purpose, characteristics, and organizational structure.

Educators are encouraged to co-create this anchor chart with students rather than present it as a completed resource. Through co-construction, students engage in deeper thinking about the content. This increases their understanding and makes it more likely they’ll remember what they learned and be able to apply that knowledge in future tasks. Co-construction is especially helpful for multilingual learners because it gives teachers the opportunity to check understanding in real time and build in scaffolds or supports that can be recorded and referenced in the future.

This resource strengthens awareness of genre families and supports students in using language intentionally across content areas.



Key Language Uses can overlap and inform each other. As genre families, Key Language Uses can intersect, blend, and build on each other.

Educator Tip

The following resources provide more information about co-creating anchor charts with students:

- [Imitate and Innovate Anchor Charts](#), International Reading Association
- [Making Anchor Charts Meaningful \(Not Just Pretty\)](#), Open Up Resources
- [Anchor Charts](#), Colorín Colorado

Suggested Use With Students

- As a model to develop anchor charts with students
- As a reference tool for students
- As a resource during small-group instruction
- With visuals, icons, diagrams, etc. to support student accessibility
- As a review of the information
- As a tool to promote discussions and observations
- As a resource to be paired with mentor texts

Narrate

Represent experiences through stories and histories.

Purpose of Writing and What You Want Readers to Learn

- To tell about something that happened
- To entertain, tell a story, or teach a lesson

Characteristics to Identify and Use This Genre

- Events in order, people, places, actions, reflections
- Problem, events, solution
- Text elements:
 - **Actions:** What the characters do
 - **Descriptions:** Details that tell what something is like or help us understand it
 - **Reactions:** How the narrator or characters feel about what happens
 - **Interactions:** How characters talk to or act with each other
 - **Reflection:** Thoughts about the experience, what was learned, or why it mattered

Questions to Plan, Organize, and Identify This Genre

- Is the author retelling a real experience or event?
- Is there a story with a problem and resolution?

Inform

Communicate factual information on a topic.

Purpose of Writing and What You Want Readers to Learn

- To communicate information and procedures

Characteristics to Identify and Use This Genre

- Definitions, facts, features, categories, descriptions, steps in order
- Text elements:
 - **Introduction:** What the topic is
 - **Facts and Details:** Information about the topic
 - **Closure:** Why the topic is important or interesting

Questions to Plan, Organize, and Identify This Genre

- Am I learning facts about a topic?
- Am I learning how to do something?

Explain

Give account for how or why things work.

Purpose of Writing and What You Want Readers to Learn

- To explain how or why something happens

Characteristics to Identify and Use This Genre

- Causes, effects, processes, sequences
- Text elements:
 - **What happens:** What is being explained
 - **How it happens:** The steps or sequence
 - **Why it happens:** The reasons behind it

Questions to Plan, Organize, and Identify This Genre

- Does it explain how something works?
- Does it explain why something happens?

Argue

Justify one's claims using evidence and reasoning.

Purpose of Writing and What You Want Readers to Learn

- To persuade the reader to agree with an opinion
- To evaluate and give an opinion about a text, product, or experience

Characteristics to Identify and Use This Genre

- Opinion, reasons, evidence, strengths, weaknesses, conclusion, call to action, recommendation
- Text elements:
 - **Claim:** What the writer believes or wants readers to think
 - **Reasons:** Why the writer thinks that
 - **Conclusion:** What the writer has argued and what the reader should do (agree or act)

Questions to Plan, Organize, and Identify This Genre

- Is the author trying to convince me?
- Is the author judging or rating something?