

Open Forms

Thesis as Implicit Theme

- Narrative based
- Uses literary technique
- Often called literary nonfiction (belletristic)
- Often used to heighten or deepen a problem, show its' human significance

Thesis as Speculation, Often Highly Personalized

- Speculative points often emerge out of narrative
- Often characterized by digressions and musings
- Thesis may only be implied

Thesis-Seeking Prose

- Essay organized around a question rather than a thesis
- Essay explores the problem or question
- Many ways of looking at a problem are expressed
- Writer often tells stories to reveal problem's complexity
- Writer may or may not arrive at thesis

Delayed-Thesis Prose

- Thesis appears near end
- Text reads as mystery
- Reader held in suspense

Closed Forms

Top-Down Thesis-Based Prose

- Thesis explicitly stated in introduction
- All parts of essay linked clearly to thesis
- Body paragraphs develop thesis
- Structure forecast