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| Elements of Nonfiction | Definition |
| Chronological organization | Presents details in time order from first to last or from last to first |
| Cause and effect organization | Shows the relationship among events |
| Compare and contrast organization | Shows the ways in which two or more subjects are similar and different |
| Author’s influences | Includes the author’s heritage, culture and personal beliefs |
| Author’s style | The way he or she puts ideas into words |
| Author’s purpose | Reason for writing |
| Biography | The life story of someone written by another person |
| Autobiography | A writer’s account of their own life |
| Historical writing | Gives facts, explanations, and insights about historical events |
| Persuasive writing | Meant to persuade the reader or listener |
| Descriptive writing | Appeals to the five senses |
| Expository writing | Presents facts, discusses ideas, or explains a process |
| Narrative writing | Tells the story of real-life experiences |
| Visual writing | Combines text and images to share |
| Reflective writing | Addresses an event in the writer’s life and provides insight about why it is important |

Author’s Purpose Notes

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| Purpose | What to Look For… |
| **P**ersuade  **I**nform | Facts and Statistics |
| **E**ntertain | Stories about experiences |
| **R**eflect | Opinions and thoughts |

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