Language Arts 9   **Name:** ( )

Unit 2 – Lesson4 – SA

Enter your responses between the *(blue)* **parentheses below each item.**

Self-Assessment: Types of Essays

Read the following passages from various essays *(narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive)*. Label each according to its main purpose (*what is the author's goal in writing the text?*), essay type *(narrative, descriptive, expository, or persuasive)*, and writing style (*informal or formal*). The first one has been done for you as an example.

The principal recently cancelled the annual grade nine ski trip. Here are just a few reasons the principal should reconsider his decision. The decision was met by universal disappointment in the class. Teachers and parents are in favour of the trip. In former years, students formed strong relationships on similar trips. The trip also motivated reluctant students.	**Main Purpose**	(The author wishes to convince the principal to change his decision about cancelling the grade nine ski trip.)
	Essay Type	(persuasive)
	Writing Style	(formal)
The river was flowing slow and calm. Just under the bridge, an eddy pushed our canoe toward the far bank. Ahead, waterflies danced across the sparkling surface of the water. Behind, our canoe left a noiseless wake that disappeared softly.	**Main Purpose**	(The author is describing a peaceful location.)
	Essay Type	(Desccriptive)
	Writing Style	(formal)
Camping has become a big industry in Canada. Each year, Canadians spend thousands of dollars on tents and other camping equipment before heading to their	**Main Purpose**	(The author is explaining the popularity of camping.)
	Essay Type	(expository)

destinations. Some of the most popular camping spots include forests and mountains.	**Writing Style**	(formal)
The river was flowing slow and calm. Just under the bridge, an eddy pushed our canoe toward the far bank. Ahead, a grizzly bear ambled from the thick bush. We hardly dared to breathe, leaving our paddles dangling in the water. Waterflies danced across the sparkling surface of the water as the bear began to fish. "Back up," Ian whispered, and our paddles split the water softly as we noiselessly drifted past the bear.	**Main Purpose**	(The author is describing a humorous event.)
	Essay Type	(narrative)
	Writing Style	(formal)
Bear safety has become a growing concern in Alberta for campers, as bears face a shrinking habitat. This results in more human and bear interactions, and while most times conflict is avoided, Wildlife Conservation officers find human ignorance creates problems. Improving the bear smarts of campers will begin to protect them in the long term, but training the bears to fear humans also can improve the situation. Enter the Bear Scare program.	**Main Purpose**	(The author is explaining how the public needs to be educated about bears.)
	Essay Type	(expository)
	Writing Style	(formal)
When faced with the prospect of staying in the outdoors, interested campers usually make one of two choices of accommodation: tents or RVs. When considering the concept of camping as 'closer to nature', which accommodation is considered truly "camping"? Is it the cavernous gas-guzzling RV with the full bathroom, beds and a big screen TV, or is it the thin nylon barrier of a tent between a camper, his or her sleeping bag, and the	**Main Purpose**	(The author is attempting to persuade the audience to choose a particular form of accommodation.)
	Essay Type	(persuasive)
	Writing Style	(formal)

ground? The answer should be obvious, but it begs further discussion.		

Self-Assessment: Types of Essays - Titles

Sometimes the title of an essay will help to determine its purpose and type (*narrative, descriptive, expository, or persuasive)*. Label the following titles to indicate **probable** essay types.

"Camping: A Major Industry"	(expository)
"My First Camping Trip"	(narrative)
"Camping: The Best!"	(persuasive)
"The Importance of Bear Safety"	(expository)
"Dad, There's a Skunk in My Tent!"	(narrative)
"My Winter Camp Experiences"	(descriptive/narrative)

When you have finished this activity, return to the lesson to check your answers.