

What is nonfiction writing?

Nonfiction writing is a genre that includes all books that don't tell a fictional story. Fiction includes novels, poetry, short stories, screenplays, plays and television scripts. Nonfiction includes all other literary works and bases its content on **true events**. Some nonfiction books, however, might offer opinions on those events. *Nonfiction includes these four major categories and several subgenres:*

- **Expository nonfiction:** Expository nonfiction explains historical events, fashion trends or natural phenomena. It can also address philosophical questions and includes science and philosophy books. *Expository nonfiction authors typically do a lot of research on their topic so they can explain it clearly and accurately to readers who might be learning about it for the first time.*
- **Narrative nonfiction:** Narrative nonfiction writing discusses facts in the style of a story. It uses chapters to structure the books rather than organizing the work by topic as expository nonfiction does. *Examples of narrative nonfiction include memoirs and biographies.*
- **Persuasive nonfiction:** With persuasive nonfiction, the author takes a position on a topic. They use facts to support their arguments and convince the readers. *An example of persuasive nonfiction is an editorial in a newspaper.*
- **Descriptive nonfiction:** With descriptive nonfiction, the writer uses figurative language, rich details and sensory language to help readers understand the information. *An example of descriptive nonfiction is a travel guide.*