# Expository vs. Persuasive Writing

What is the difference?

#### Expository writing

has a narrow topic.

- stays focused on the main ideas.
- is elaborated using reasons, well-chosen and specific details, examples, and/or anecdotes to support ideas.

#### Persuasive writing

- has a *clear position* and is focused on that position.
- has more than one argument to support a position.
- is elaborated by using reasons, well-chosen and specific details, examples, anecdotes, facts, and/or statistics as evidence to support arguments.

#### Expository writing

is organized with an introduction,
 supporting paragraphs with main points and elaboration, and an effective conclusion.

#### Persuasive writing

- is organized to make the best case with an opening, including the position statement, and an effective persuasive conclusion, such as a call to action.
- anticipates and refutes the opposing position.

#### Expository writing

 includes information that is interesting, thoughtful, and necessary for the audience.

uses transitions to connect ideas.

#### Persuasive writing

 is organized to make the best case for my position.

 uses transitions to connect position, arguments, and evidence.

#### Expository writing

- shows care about the topic with voice and language appropriate for the audience.
- uses specific words and phrases that help the reader understand ideas.

#### Persuasive writing

- shows commitment to position with voice and language appropriate for the audience.
- uses specific words,
  phrases, and
  persuasive strategies
  that urge or compel to
  support a position.

# **Expository Example**

### Expository writing is explaining.

– I would include my skates because I love to ice skate. I especially love ice dancing, a form of ice skating in which you have a partner, don't jump or do lifts above the boy's head, and are partly judged on the quality of your edges and interpretation of the music.

## Persuasive Example

- Persuasive writing is convincing.
  - Some late work counts as 70% credit, giving kids a C- which is passing. Some kids are happy because they think a C- is a good grade. How can we allow students to turn in all of their work late but still have a passing grade? The kids that have C-'s don't care about their work because even if they turn it in late, they can still get a passing grade. These kids have sort of twisted the grading system to benefit themselves. This can no longer be allowed.