

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION # 9 (For Eighth Grade)

NONFICTION

DEFINITION

Non-fiction is an account of a subject which is presented as fact.

This work may be accurate or not; that is, it can give either a true or a false account of the subject in question. However, it is generally assumed that the authors of such accounts believe them to be truthful at the time of their writing.

Non-fiction is one of the two main divisions in writing, particularly used in libraries, the other being fiction. However, non-fiction need not necessarily be written text, since pictures and film can also purport to present a factual account of a subject.

Essays, journals, documentaries, scientific papers, photographs, biographies, textbooks, blueprints, technical documentation, user manuals, diagrams and journalism are all common examples of non-fiction works

Other works can legitimately be either fiction or non-fiction, such as documentaries, letters, magazine articles, histories, websites, speeches and travelogues.

WHAT IS THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FICTION AND NON-FICTION?

- Fiction - Books that are made up by the author's imagination, or have not occurred in the real world, are fiction.
- Nonfiction - is the opposite of fiction. Books that are nonfiction, or factual, are about real things, people, events, and places.

History of Non-Fiction

Cave paintings, from 40,000 years ago, are one of the oldest forms of human expression and could be either a record of what prehistoric man caught on hunting trips, (non-fiction), or alternately a story expressing what they would like to catch in the future (fiction).

Sumerian cuneiform inscriptions which hold the earliest writings seem to have been initially for non-fiction. The earliest texts in existence deal with the buying and selling of items and other economic matters, although fiction was not far behind.

Types or Forms of Non-Fiction

- Almanac
- Biography
- Autobiography
- Blueprint

- Book report
- Creative nonfiction
- Design document
- Diagram
- Diary
- Dictionary
- Documentary film
- Encyclopedia
- Essay
- History
- Journal
- Journalism
- Letter
- Literary criticism
- Memoir
- Philosophy
- Photograph
- Science book
- Scientific paper
- Speech
- Statute
- Textbook
- Travelogue
- User manual

Qualities of Non-Fiction

- Purpose – give information, share feelings, entertain, or influence
- Logic – statements must be supported by reasons and evidence
- Unity – all parts are connected and in agreement
- Coherence – one idea flows from the previous

The Problem of Objectivism vs. Subjectivism

Although there is a claim of “factual truth” by part of those that write non-fiction the reality is that one man’s truth can be another man’s lie. While some make an effort to stick to the facts, others are much more interested in sharing their own perceptions.

Writing that presents facts without revealing the writer’s feeling and opinions is said to be objective. When a writer uses a very personal tone and deliberately reveals opinions and feelings we say his approach is subjective.

Answer the following questions:

1. What are the two main divisions in prose writing?
2. How far ago can we see early examples of non-fiction?

3. Give 6 examples of non-fictional media.
4. What is the main difference between fiction and non-fiction?
5. What is the main difference between objectivity and subjectivity?

References

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-fiction>
- <http://library.thinkquest.org/5002/Basic/ficnf.htm>