

Types of Assignments: English



Assignment	Literary Analysis	Rhetorical Analysis	Research Paper (Report)	Argument	Definition Essay	Evaluation
Rhetorical Purpose	Respond critically to cultural works	Examine in detail the way text works	Provide readers with reliable information	Ask readers to consider debatable ideas	Categorize a particular thing, person, event or phenomenon	Make a claim about the merit of something
Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literary interpretation Close reading Cultural analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad analysis Argument analysis Cultural analysis Analysis of a visual text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> News report Investigative report Academic report Flowchart Infographic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argument to advance a thesis Exploratory argument Refutation argument Visual argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple categorical arguments Definitional arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product review Arts review Social satire Visual comparison
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven (thesis-first format) Claims supported with quotations from text(s) Proper citation Data-driven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven (thesis-first format) Claims supported with quotations from text(s) Proper citation Data-driven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective Uses reliable sources Presents information clearly Requires synthesis Thesis-driven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven Supporting evidence Refutation Often requires synthesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven Establishes clear criteria Defends criteria matching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven (makes judgment) Establishes criteria Offers convincing evidence
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation

Types of Assignments: English



Assignment	Causal Paper	Narrative	Proposal	Annotated Bibliography
Rhetorical Purpose	Explain why, how, or if something happened	Chronicle events in people's lives	Define a problem and suggest a solution	Summarize and assess sources
Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causal analysis • Research study • Exploratory essay • Cultural analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection • Literacy narrative • Memoir • Graphic narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal proposal • Manifesto 	
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis-driven (makes judgment) • Establishes grounds • Offers convincing evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tells a story • Makes a point • Observes details closely • No explicit thesis statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines a problem • Clear target audience • Considers reasonable options • Makes specific and realistic recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate bibliography of research materials • Describes/summarizes the content of each item • Assesses quality of each item • Explains the role work plays in project
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause-effect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem-solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description • Synthesis • Evaluation⁷

⁷ The focus of an annotated bibliography differs from one instructor to the next. Some annotated bibliographies merely describe sources. Others may synthesize them and put them into conversation with one another. Frequently, annotated bibliographies will feature evaluative statements speaking to the usefulness of each particular source.

Types of Assignments: History



Assignment	Response Paper	Historiographical Essay	Research Paper (Report)	Argument	Critiques of Article
Rhetorical Purpose	Reflect on a text and discuss/evaluate it	Analyze how historians have interpreted a particular event	Provide readers with reliable information	Ask readers to consider debatable ideas	Demonstrate comprehension and the ability to synthesize and critically evaluate information
Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book review 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argument to advance a thesis Narrative argument 	
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven (usually in response to a specific question) Offers supporting evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven Uses reliable sources Presents information clearly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective Uses reliable sources Presents information clearly Critically evaluates primary and secondary sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven (thesis is often found in the conclusion in a narrative argument) Supporting evidence Refutation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses strengths and weaknesses of article with particular attention to research design, analysis, conclusions, and citation usage
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation

Types of Assignments: Laboratory Sciences (Chemistry, Biology, etc.)



Assignment	Lab Report	Poster Presentation	Research Paper (Report)	Argument
Rhetorical Purpose	Record a scientific experiment	Stand as a source of information and generate conversation	Provide readers with reliable information	Asks readers to consider debatable ideas
Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific research report 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic report Scientific article 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argument to advance a thesis Narrative argument Scientific article
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally follow IMRAD format: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion May not contain a traditional thesis (though still a clear sense of purpose) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on one message Includes charts, figures, and graphics and uses text sparingly Clear sequencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective Uses reliable sources Presents information clearly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven (thesis is often found in the conclusion in a narrative argument) Supporting evidence Refutation
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedural-sequential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedural-sequential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis Analysis

Types of Assignments: Laboratory Sciences (Chemistry, Biology, etc.)



Assignment	Research Proposal	Journal Article	Literature Review
Rhetorical Purpose	Defines a problem and suggests how research will contribute to the solution	Presents primary research	Summarizes and synthesizes available information on a topic
Variations			
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines a problem • Clear target audience • Considers reasonable options • Makes specific and realistic recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often follow IMRAD format: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a narrative structure (i.e., tells the story of the research) • Generally ends by pointing out a gap in the available research
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem-solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis • Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis

Types of Assignments: Engineering



Assignment	Research Report Other Than Lab Report	Lab Report	Progress Report	Critiques of Article
Rhetorical Purpose	Inform target audience on results obtained outside a laboratory environment; define a problem and possible solution	Record a scientific experiment	Informs on the intermediate stages of larger and/or more long-term projects (such as research or lab reports)	Demonstrates comprehension and the ability to synthesize and critically evaluate information
Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study • Industry report • Technical report • Feasibility report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific research report 		
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally follow IMRAD format: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion • May not contain a thesis • Clear purpose and target audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally follow IMRAD format: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion • May not contain a thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers background and significant information on the larger project • Reminds readers of the overall aims or goals for the project • Explains studies done so far (and relationship to the aims of the project) as well as the results of those studies • Offers plans to meet the remaining specific aims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses strengths and weaknesses of article with particular attention to research design, analysis, conclusions, and citation usage
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis • Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural-sequential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural-sequential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation

Types of Assignments: Engineering



Assignment	Memos	Technical Description	Annotated Bibliography	Proposal
Rhetorical Purpose	Provide readers with data and understanding	Describe a concept, process, or device to a lay audience	Summarize and assess sources	Define a problem and suggest a solution
Variations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedures/ process description 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research proposal
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First paragraph states general purpose and intent of memo Majority of information presented in main body Emphasis on conciseness Document design and inclusion of figures and tables (when needed) emphasized Clear closing statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes significance of the topic When needed, uses tables and figures Conveys information so that it is understandable to a non-technical audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate bibliography of research materials Describes/ summarizes the content of each item Assesses quality of each item Explains the role work plays in project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines a problem Clear target audience Considers reasonable options Makes specific and realistic recommendations
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description Synthesis Evaluation⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem-solution

⁸ The focus of an annotated bibliography differs from one instructor to the next. Some annotated bibliographies merely describe sources. Others may synthesize them and put them into conversation with one another. Frequently, annotated bibliographies will feature evaluative statements speaking to the usefulness of each particular source.

Types of Assignments: Business



Assignment	Press Release	Cover Letter and Résumé	Memo	Proposal	PowerPoint Presentation	Business Plan
Rhetorical Purpose	Provide journalists or the public with information on a specific topic	Apply for a job	Provide readers with data and understanding	Define a problem and suggest a solution	Present information visually and orally	Make a case to start or change a business
Variations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum vitae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring memo Topic memo Recommendation memo Letter, email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research proposal 		
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-objective: press releases try to paint a business in the best possible light Contains headline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attention to document design Clear, concise language Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar very important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First paragraph states general purpose and intent of memo Majority of information presented in main body Emphasis on conciseness Document design and inclusion of figures and tables (when needed) emphasized Clear closing statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines a problem Clear target audience Considers reasonable options Makes specific and realistic recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strict attention to audience, purpose, and context Integration of outside media sources (such as videos or links) Attention to clarity and brevity Clean visual design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attention to visual design and inclusion of tables and figures Generally include title page, table of contents, executive summary, mission statement, company overview, financial plans
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem-solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description Problem-solution Evaluation⁹

⁹ Business plans feature qualities of all three of these LDC task templates.

Types of Assignments: Psychology



Assignment	Research Paper	Case Study	Lab Report	Critique Paper	Review
Rhetorical Purpose	Provide readers with reliable information	In-depth analysis of a human subject	Record a scientific experiment	Demonstrate comprehension and the ability to synthesize and critically evaluate information	Make a claim about the merit of something
Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic report 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific research report 		
Major Traits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective Uses reliable sources Presents information clearly Critically evaluates primary and secondary sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally includes background information on the subject Describes the problem the subject is facing or has Determines diagnosis Outlines intervention strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally follows IMRAD format: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion May not contain an explicit thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses strengths and weaknesses of article with particular attention to research design, analysis, conclusions, and citation usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis-driven (makes judgment) Establishes criteria Offers convincing evidence
LDC Task Template(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesis Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedural-sequential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation