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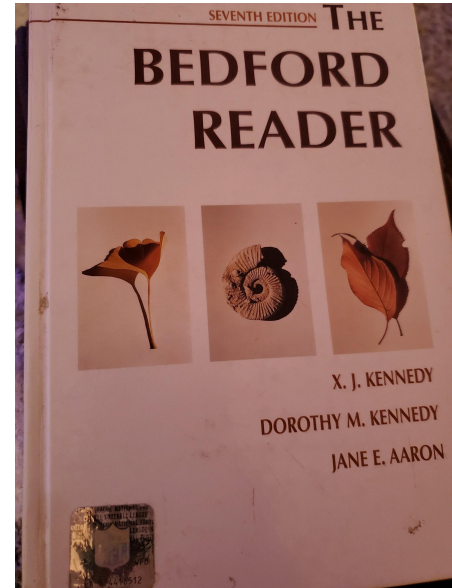
# The Bedford Reader Modes Assignment - Step by Step

A guide by Mr. DeGeer

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# Why am I doing this?

The purpose of these assignments is to further your critical reading, rhetorical analysis, and understanding of the different rhetorical modes of writing in order to identify modes when reading and to help you employ multiple writing strategies for different purposes in your own writing. The Bedford Reader pieces deal with significant social issues as well as relatable personal situations. The works will works will also be used for class discussions.





# 1. Summarize the Intro

**First, read and summarize the introduction for the selected mode of writing from The Bedford Reader (7th ed)**

→ **Main Ideas**

Highlight components that make up the mode of writing.

→ **Check List**

What are the particular steps to follow when writing in that mode?

→ **Case Study**

Provide information about the student essay at the end of the chapter.

## NARRATION

### Telling a Story



#### THE METHOD

"What happened?" you ask a friend who sports a luminous black eye. Unless he merely grunts, "A golf ball," he may answer you with a narrative—a story, true or fictional.

"Okay," he sighs, "you know The Tenth Round! That nightclub down by the docks that smells of formaldehyde! Last night I heard they were giving away \$500 to anybody who could stand up for three minutes against this karate expert, the Masked Samurai. And so..."

You lean forward. At least, you lean forward if you love a story. Most of us do, particularly if the story tells us of people in action or in conflict, and if it is told briskly, vividly, and with insight into the human heart. *Narration*, or storytelling, is therefore a powerful method by which to engage and hold the attention of listeners—readers as well. A little of its tremendous power flows to the public speaker who starts off with a joke, even a stale joke ("A funny thing happened to me on my way over here..."), and to the preacher who at the beginning of a sermon tells of some funny or touching incident. In its opening paragraph, an article in a popular magazine ("Vampires Live Today!") will give us a brief, arresting narrative: perhaps the case

# The introduction for each section is listed in the

# Bedford Modes Instructions packet

## The Bedford Reader: Modes of Development

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**First**, read and summarize the introduction for the *selected* mode of writing from *The Bedford Reader* (7<sup>th</sup> ed). **Second**, read the selected reading for the section and complete Questions & Style paragraph for the selected reading. **Next**, select and read an essay of your choosing from the selected chapter and write a rhetorical précis and personal response paragraph for the work you have chosen. **Finally**, using MLA format, write a 400-600 word essay in the selected mode.

Sections will be assigned accordingly, do NOT get ahead of yourself.

### **Selected Sections & Readings:**

**Argument & Persuasion:** Stating Opinions and Proposals. Pages 453-468 (summary)

H.L. Mencken – *The Penalty of Death*. Page 470

**Narration; Telling a Story. Pages 39-50 (summary)**

Barbara Huttman – *A Crime of Compassion*. Page 76

**Definition:** Tracing a Boundary. Pages 409 – 417 (summary)

Gloria Naylor – *The Meanings of a Word*. Page 418

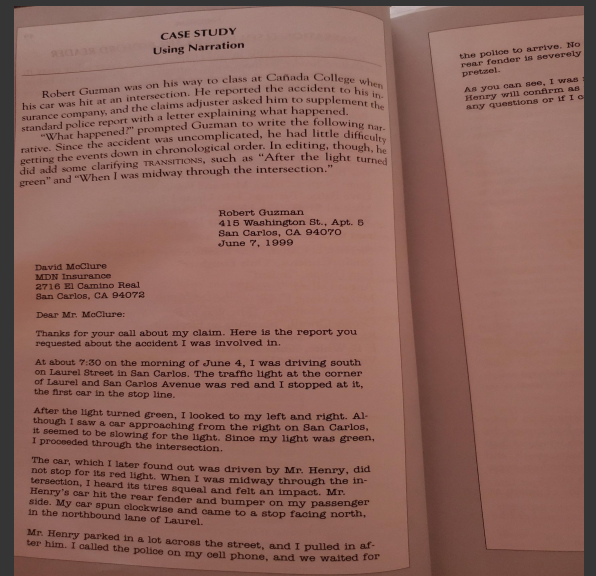
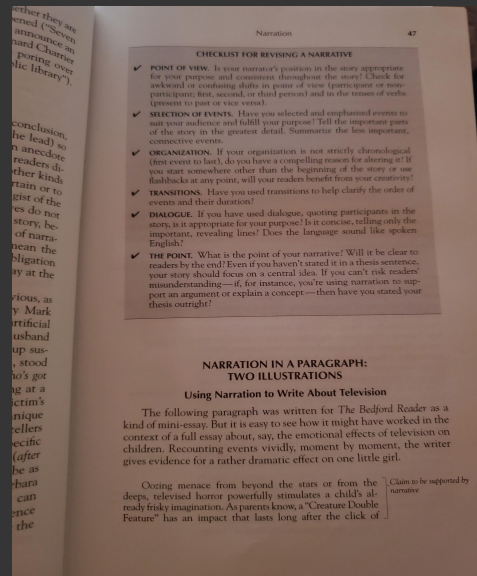
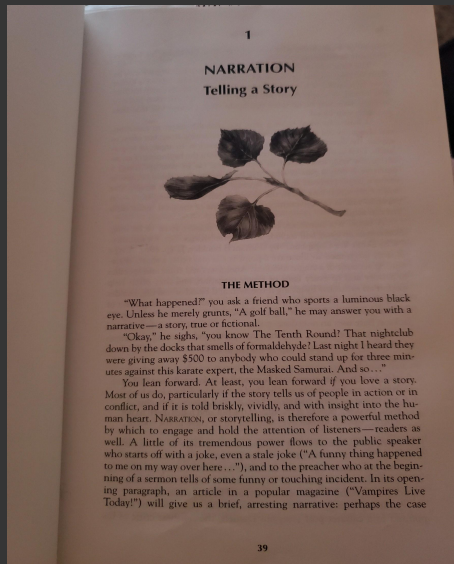
**Example:** Pointing to Instances. Pages 137-143 (summary)

Barbara Lazear Ascher – *On Compassion*. Page 145

**Process Analysis:** Explaining Step by Step. Pages 219-226 (summary)

Horace Miner – *Body Ritual Among the Nacirema*. Page 255

# Cover all of the main ideas of the introduction as well the Case Study



Summary - Requirements:  
Read and summarize the introduction for the selected mode of writing from The Bedford Reader (7th ed). Your summary should include information from each highlighted section of the introduction, including the student sample essay at the end. Your summary should be a minimum of 1 page typed in MLA format +10 points.

Johnny Utah

Mr. DeGeer - Period 1

AP English 11

20 October 2018

**Storytelling** (*rhetorical mode*)

**Summary** (*label each section*)

Storytelling is a great tool to engage the reader's attention in order to convey vital information. Anecdotes are used in daily life constantly and can be short and used in conversations, or long such as a ridiculous lengthy novel like *The Scarlet Letter*. Many folks utilize this mode of communication to illustrate a point, report information, to argue, or to persuade, maybe even for entertainment.

A good story begins with a purpose. Without a purpose, the story can be irritating, uninteresting, and ultimately, ineffective to the readers. Storytelling also happens suddenly unplanned due to how much we use it in our lives. Most stories are subjective, as we are the people who experienced the event firsthand. If the story wasn't our own experience, then tell the story in a different way- in third person. The final element of a narrative is the verb tense, past and present. If it is in the present tense, it creates a feeling of immediacy which can be difficult to sustain throughout the story since it could be seen as artificial.

Some questions to ask before telling a story are what happened, who took part, w



## 2. Selected Reading

Second, read the selected reading for the section and complete Questions on Meaning, Questions on Writing Strategy, & write a one paragraph style analysis on the author's style.

**Sections will be assigned accordingly, do NOT get ahead of yourself.**

**Selected Sections & Readings:**

**Argument & Persuasion:** Stating Opinions and Proposals. Pages 453-468 (s

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**Division or Analysis:** Slicing into Parts. Pages 265-273 (summary)

Judy Brady – *I Want a Wife*. Page 275

**Classification:** Sorting into Kinds. Pages 311-317 (summary)

Russell Baker – *The Plot Against People*. Page 319

**Cause & Effect:** Asking Why. Pages 361-371 (summary)

K.C. Cole – *The Arrow of Time*. Page 378

*shallow simp...*  
*complexity with her narrative.*

## QUESTIONS ON MEANING

1. Is Huttmann's PURPOSE in this essay personal (wanting to justify her act) or social (wanting to establish the right to die) or both? Explain.
2. What is the contradiction in the title of the essay?
3. What personal risk does Huttmann assume when she decides not to press the button? What does she mean by "legal twilight zone" (para. 16)?
4. Is Huttmann confident that she made the right decision?
5. Where does Huttmann state her THESIS?

## QUESTIONS ON WRITING STRATEGY

1. Why does Huttmann begin the essay the way she does? What do we ASSUME about the nurse referred to in the first sentence, and at what point do we begin to question that assumption?

**Selected Readings - Requirements:**  
Read the selected reading from the section and answer Questions on Meaning & Questions on Writing Strategy at the end of the reading +2 points each per question. Write a minimum of one paragraph analysis on the author's style. What stands out about their syntax & sentence structure? What type of diction do they use? What is their tone and how do they create it? +5 points. The selected readings will be covered the following week in a Socratic Circle or group.



# Follow the formatting examples in the Bedford Instruction Packet

## Questions on Writing Strategy

1. Rodriguez begins his essay like this because it reels in the audience's attention with a shocking and harsh statement. It also makes the reader aware of how controversial and significant the topic is. We assume that the speaker really did commit a crime and that he is not qualified for his job as a player. We begin to question this when he explains the amount of times that she had to steal home, leading the reader to start thinking about the ethics and morality behind his decision.
2. The tone throughout Rodriguez's essay is factual and justifying. This is because he explains the truth about the situation and why he did what he did, asserting that his decision to steal home was the only ethical choice. Rodriguez avoids sentimentality by not overusing pathos. His essay is more revolved around logos to justify her actions. "Every morning I asked my coach if I could use my ability to help the team." This shows Rodriguez's logic as he describes his coach's reluctance to let him steal home, questioning the morality of his decisions. Instead of using emotional appeals to persuade the audience into sentimentality, he uses logic and reasoning to gain the reader's understanding.

## Style Paragraph

message.

(SKIP A LINE IN BETWEEN SECTIONS)

## Selected Reading (bold and underlined main section)

Benny Rodriguez - *Stealing Home*

## Questions on Meaning

1. Rodriguez establishes the main idea of his essay right away with a strong opening anecdote that encompasses the true feelings of the speaker and his childhood friends. The meaning is emphasized with multiple examples of descriptive language and imagery that tugs at the reader's heart strings and allows the reader to reflect on their own childhood memories. Rodriguez employs specific details and strong imagery to make his point clear.

## Style Paragraph

Rodriguez's essay uses strong emotional appeal to persuade his audience about his choice to steal home. The varied sentence types builds up the anticipation to his main point that stealing home was his most ethical decision. The diction creates a lighthearted tone and allows

AP E11

Language & Composition

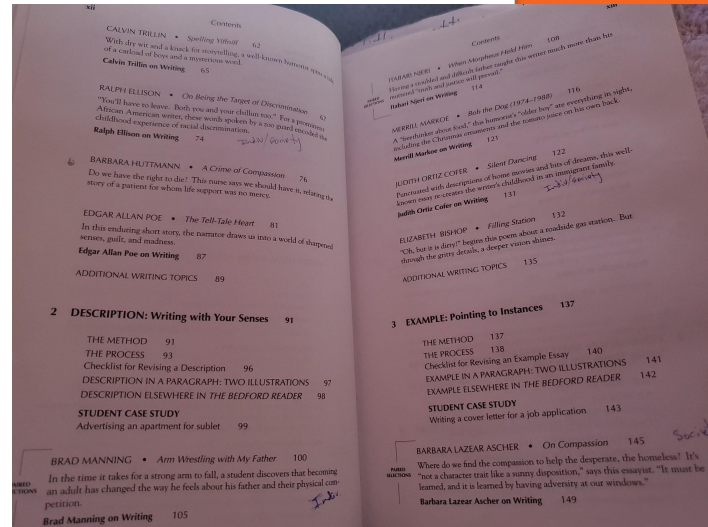
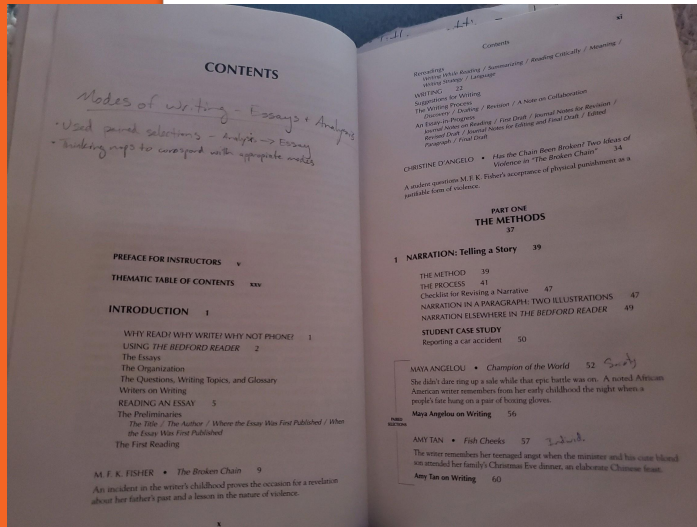
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the reader to maintain their childhood feelings even when grappling with such an important ethical decision. The balance Rodriguez creates between his mature topic and his mild language makes the piece digestible for all readers young and old. Rodriguez handles a bold topic with care and utilizes relatable stories and figurative language to press his point.

## Chosen Reading

# 3. Chosen Reading

Next, go to the table of contents and select and read an essay of your choosing from the selected section. Write a rhetorical précis and personal response paragraph for the work you have chosen.



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Requirements: Choose a reading from the section and write a Rhetorical Precis +8 points (2 points per component) and a minimum one paragraph response about your views on the reading topic +5 points. The precis and response paragraph need to be labeled and typed. They can be on the same page.

### Chosen Reading

Lloyd Christmas - *Pet Store*

### **Rhetorical Precis**

In the magazine article, "Pet Store" (1994), Lloyd Christmas states that people with ethnic backgrounds have conflicting feelings for being in two different cultures. Christmas does this by sharing his own personal experience as a teen, when his mother took him to a pet store, which quickly turned into an embarrassing situation. Christmas shares his embarrassing experience in order to illustrate that people of a different cultural background should accept their differences from American society because nothing can change them from being of a different race. Christmas published this essay mainly for adolescents of ethnic backgrounds who have trouble forming their identities.

### **Personal Response**

Lloyd Christmas's essay is an experience that I can understand greatly, being of ethnic background. He was very effective in connecting to the audience as she understands the struggles of being a "different" adolescent in a prejudiced American society. His purpose becomes a very important concept and topic for ethnic adolescents as it shows us that we shouldn't just avoid or cover up our cultural background just to please society. We should



## 4. Modes Essay

Finally, using MLA format, write a 400-600 word essay in the selected mode.

→ **Topic**

Choose a topic that is well known and interesting to you and broad enough that you can readily adapt it to all of the different modes.

→ **Mode Components**

Follow the checklist from the chapter intro

→ **Word Count**

Follow the formatting from the instructions packet and put the word count of the ESSAY at the end of the essay.

**Requirements: Write an essay on the same topic, each in a different mode +25 points each based on the AP exam scoring rubric (400-600 words). List the word count at the end. Each paper should clearly demonstrate the distinct characteristics of the mode. Before writing each mode you should review the different chapters for tips on purpose, audience, strategies, and, in some cases, potential pitfalls. Especially important is the Checklist for Revising chart at the end of each introduction.**

**Choose a topic that is well known and interesting to you and broad enough that you can readily adapt it to all of the different modes. Topics that have worked well for students in the past include: shopping, a favorite sport, school, friends, teenagers, grades, parents, teachers, TV, movies, reading, dating, music, holidays, fashion, presidential elections, politics, religion, vegetarianism, health, food or cooking, nature, etc. Each paper should be in MLA format, approximately 400 - 600 words, labeled with the mode of development, double-spaced, typed, have a creative title, and a word count at the end.**

# Follow the formatting examples in the Bedford Instruction Packet

**Storytelling Essay** (*essay type*) - **Underwater Basket Weaving** (*essay topic*)

## **The Transition** (*essay title*)

I have been an underwater basket weaver for the majority of my life, starting at age four. It's one of the most consistent things I have ever done. When I was four, I started weaving at a particular pool (we'll call it Pool A) and stayed there for about five to six years. The season would always start in the fall like school. My mother always disliked this pool as she felt the instructors were prejudiced and racist towards me. She told me that she always felt guilty to drop me off because of the treatment that I was given. Of course as a kid, I didn't really understand that type of discrimination and desired to stay because all of my friends I made weaved there.

The beginning of my fifth grade year began in August and dance was just around the corner. My mother insisted on visiting another pool in town (we'll call this one Pool B) and I agreed to go. The basket weaving instructor at Pool B greeted us kindly and told us about the programs offered. After some thought, we decided to give it a try, but I would be simultaneously enrolled at both pools just in case one of them fell through. Funny enough, I learned later that the two pools had an unspoken drama with each other because of a past history. I never told my Pool A friends that I weaved at Pool B because I was afraid they would push me out for the betrayal.

As the year went on, I kept the secret of me going to both pools and slowly began to love pool B, especially in the extended weave class. Nearing the end of the year, competition season was starting, meaning multiple practices for both pools. One day, I told one of my closest friends at Pool A that I was attending Pool B and reminded her that it needed to be kept secret. She betrayed me days after, informing the Weaving instructor that I was going to move to Pool B while we were in cross weaving class. I felt so guilty and also so betrayed by this friend, and motivated me even more to weave at Pool B and forget Pool A.

The following year, I completely converted to Pool B where I made new friends who were genuine and the instructors that actually cared about me. My mom told me years later that when I transitioned over to Pool B, she had a peace of mind and didn't worry about me as much. Her decision to switch pools impacted my underwater basket weaving career, which ultimately changed my life and how I live. At the time, I disliked the change and prolonged transition, but I eventually came to trust that "mother knows best."

**Word Count: 588** (*don't forget the word count for the essay*)



## Good luck!

The Bedford - Modes of Development assignments will be submitted to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) every 3 - 4 weeks. Keep up on your work and be sure to ask your teacher if you have any questions. Good luck!

