



Common Types of Writing Assignments

While there are lots of different writing assignments in university, the table below will help you recognize the most common. Use the examples to get a sense of what your instructor is asking you to do.

Assignment Type	Description	Example
Personal Response/Reflective Writing Assignment	Gives your response to a reading assignment, an event, or a specific issue, and explains your perspective.	Attending a cultural event and then writing about what you saw, felt, and learned.
Summary	Usually given in response to a reading, a summary assignment asks you to restate the main idea of the reading or readings in your own words.	Reading an article in your English 100 class and writing its main points in your own words.
Position Paper or Persuasive Argument Paper	This kind of assignment requires that you say what your position or opinion about an issue is and talk about why you think your position is correct.	Being asked to make an argument about whether or not you agree with capital punishment, and why.
Problem/Solution Assignment	Asks you to present a problem, explain what causes the problem, and then propose and explain a solution.	Presenting a plan for how to manage a crisis or make a dangerous situation safer.
Literary Analysis or Interpretation Assignment	Requires you to make an argument about a literary work (a play, poem, novel, or short story) and use evidence from the work to prove your argument.	Writing an essay about the role of women in a novel.
Literature Review	Asks you to sum up the available research findings on a particular research topic.	Reviewing all the research you can find about the rates of violence in television and its affects.
Case Study/Case Analysis	Investigate a particular person, group, or event in depth for the purpose of drawing a larger conclusion.	Talking about the treatment methods for a person suffering from a medical condition to suggest that as a

		treatment option for similar patients.
Lab Report	Presents a lab experiment, including the hypothesis, methods of data collection, results, and conclusions	Presenting the result of an experiment you conducted in your biology lab.
Research Paper	Presents an argument and supports it with original research or the findings of other researchers. A research paper can take different forms depending on the subject area.	Choosing to do research on the Canadian health system and then gathering evidence and making an argument about how we can improve it.