PROSE before POETRY

In this unit, we will be exploring both formal and informal writing while building upon essay skills and techniques.

Essay writing, formal or informal, is also called exposition – expressing an opinion, or convincing the reader of some opinion, or simply explaining something.

START YOUR NOTE HERE:

here are the main differences between Formal and Informal Essays:

Formal

- to inform, persuade

- written on serious subjects

- creates unity (expressed in the Introduction, developed in the Body and summarized in the Conclusion)

-logical development of thought (chronological

or current)

- strong diction

-references to secondary sources (other books or authorities)

- learn little of the author

Informal

- to entertain

- serious or trivial

- unity by single mood

expressed in the Introduction, developed

in the Body and summarized in the Conclusion

-uses a plan of development but may wander or introduce loosely related ideas

- more colloquial language

-may learn a great deal about the author

ESSAY PURPOSES:

• to instruct or teach a process

• to inform or provide facts

• to persuade or to convince someone of something

• to describe and create a picture of a person, place, or thing.

• to narrate or to tell a story

• to entertain

ESSAY TERMS

Subject: What the essay is about.

Prose: Any writing that is organized into sentences (i.e. not verse).

Thesis: A key sentence that reflects the central idea of the entire piece of writing.

Tone: The writer’s attitude to the subject as conveyed through diction and style.

Audience: The person(s) for whom you are writing.

Diction: The choice of words and phrases. In literature, a term used to describe the level of language used (e.g. slang, colloquial, formal).

Theme: The central or dominating idea(s) in a literary work.

Unity: A sense of oneness in writing in which all sentences work together to develop the main idea (i.e. Theme).

Coherence: Putting your ideas together in such a way that the reader can easily follow from one point to the next.

Emphasis: Giving great importance to a particular idea in a piece of writing by placing it in a special position, by repeating a key word or phrase, or through the use of Rhetorical devices.