



Four Types and Writing Style

The four writing styles presented here are typical of four basic approaches to narrative: the Scientific, the Theoretical, the Mythic, and the Phenomenological. Most of the students' writing, to some degree or another, fall into these four basic categories.

THE MYTHIC (SF)

Although myths may carry many symbolic meanings and may serve a number of cultural functions, they are, at their very core, stories about people. It is that sense of a myth that is the focus of this approach to writing history. As you read the **SF**'s writing pay attention to how they emphasize the people, and the random events into a story with a beginning, middle and end.

THE PHENOMENOLOGICAL (NF)

Phenomenology is a school of philosophy that holds, in brief, that we cannot know concrete reality with any certainty; what we can know, however, and what philosophers should investigate, is our reactions to concrete reality. As you read the **NF**'s writing, pay attention to how they emphasize their reactions to what happened without describing, at least in detail, what actually happened.

THE THEORETICAL (NT)

Some writers, like many SFs are more concerned about accurately describing concrete reality; others, like **NT**s are more interested in developing ideas or theories that will explain what reality is and what it means. As you read NT writing, pay attention to their efforts to understand and describe "history."

THE SCIENTIFIC (ST)

Although the term "science" covers a wide range of meanings, it is used here in its most common and restricted sense: science is the accurate observation of a concrete reality. As you read the **ST**'s writing, pay attention to how they try to accurately describe the "things," and how what materially happened and the practical/scientific explanation for why they did.