**Prose**

Prose- covers any spoken or written language that is not poetry

Why study prose? –we become better at recognizing that the real reason people write is to communicate a message

-appreciating prose involves looking for the parts of writing that are effective or appealing

-writers attempt to appeal via their sentences, word choices, devices, and method of development

Prose can be divided into 2 types-formal and informal

**Formal**- often has a serious tone, formal diction used, distinct thesis, clear structure, obvious audience/purpose, learn little about the author, writer focuses on building and supporting his/her subject with analysis and research

(literary and research essays fall into this category)

**Informal**- writing is less serious, more colloquial language is used, thesis is implied, structure is loose, you can learn a great deal about the author (written in first person)

(narrative, persuasive and descriptive essays fall into this category)

**Essay Purposes:**

* To instruct- teach a process
* To inform- provide facts
* To persuade- to convince someone
* To describe- to create a picture of a person, place, or thing
* To narrate- to tell a story
* To entertain- to amuse