Types of Essays

• Analyzes a topic, a story, characters, setting, tone, etc.
• Divides a written work into parts and discusses how they relate to the whole. What is the significance?
• Takes a position on an issue for someone else to accept or consider
Offers reasons and support, evidence
• Explains why something happened and the causes or effects of a situation
 Sorts items into categories by one organizing principle
 Shows similarities and differences among subjects
Comes to a useful conclusion
 Judges, interprets, reviews and discusses a topic
 Supports with evidence
Defines a word, phrase, or term
Gives clear and distinct facts about a subject
• Uses examples and details
Uses the five senses to describe something or someone
Uses adjectives to describe in detail
Informs and explains a topic
Helps the reader understand a topic and conveys information
Explains a topic without giving the writer's opinion
Uses examples and details to show, explain, or prove a point
Answers the question: So what?
Tells the story of an event or an experience
Needs to have a main point about why the story is important
Uses support that contains the major events and details
Describes how to do something
Explains steps and the order in which something happens
Discusses relationships between sources

Source: Carino, Peter. The Basic College Writer. Grandview, IL. Scott Foresman/Little Brown, 1998.