

Intermediate Reading Course. Section 1: The Basics

**Modes of Writing – Practice**

**Instructions.** Based on [this lesson about modes of writing](#), identify the mode of writing in each of the excerpts below.

**Attention.** Some of the excerpts are portions of longer texts, but they provide sufficient information for you to identify their mode of writing.

When you are finished, see “Answer Key” to check your answers.

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**Excerpt 1**

There are several good reasons you should consider learning Mandarin Chinese in today’s world. China is the second-largest economy in the world and is growing rapidly. Knowing Mandarin Chinese can open up job opportunities in international business, finance, and trade.

If you have no business interest in learning this beautiful language, perhaps Chinese culture might interest you. China has a rich history and culture that is deeply intertwined with the Mandarin language. Learning the language can give you a deeper understanding of Chinese literature, art, and philosophy.

Another reason you should consider learning Mandarin Chinese is to take on the challenge of learning a language that. . . .

**Mode of writing:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## Excerpt 2

The Island of Kotor is a unique tourist destination in the South China Sea. It is a Japanese owned tropical tourist destination known for its crystal clear waters and beautiful coral sand beaches. It has an almost surreal atmosphere, often described as serene, tranquil, and full of love. The native people of this island are especially friendly and hospitable, welcoming tourists warmly and always offering assistance with activities, sightseeing, and more.

Kotor is particularly known for its colorful coral reef. Due to its shallow, clear waters and hundreds of rare species of colorful fish and other marine life, it is perfect for snorkelers. . . .

**Mode of writing:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Excerpt 3

Jack was a little boy who lived in a small village near a dense forest. He was known throughout the village as a very stubborn child. He would always do things his own way, no matter what anyone else said.

One day, Jack's mother asked him to go to the market and buy some vegetables for dinner. Jack, being stubborn, decided that he would take the long way to the market, through the forest, instead of the shortcut that his mother had shown him.

As he walked through the forest, he met a wise old owl who asked him where he was going. Jack, being stubborn, refused to listen to the owl's advice to take the shortcut and continued on his way.

As he walked deeper into the forest, the sky grew darker and the wind began to pick up. Suddenly, a storm broke out and Jack was caught in the middle of it. He was lost, cold, and scared.



Just when he thought things couldn't get any worse, he heard a voice calling out to him. It was the owl again, and this time, Jack decided to listen to its advice and take the shortcut.

The owl led Jack safely through the forest, and he finally made it to the market. From that day on, Jack learned to be less stubborn and listen to the advice of others. He also made it home in time for dinner.

**Mode of writing:** \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **Excerpt 4**

The Electoral College is the system used to elect the President of the United States. It is a group of electors who are chosen by the political parties in each state. The number of electors in each state is equal to the number of members of Congress that the state has.

When citizens cast their vote for President, they are actually voting for a group of electors who have pledged to vote for a particular candidate. The candidate who wins the most votes in a state gets all of that state's electors. This is known as the "winner-takes-all" system. The number of electors in each state ranges from 3 to 55, totalling 538 electors.

On the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, the electors meet in their respective state capitals and cast their official vote for President. They then send their votes to the President of the Senate, . . . .

**Mode of writing:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## Excerpt 5

Although I earned a C in the course, I am happy with my performance. The first half of the semester was difficult for me, which explains my low course grade, but it got easier in the second half.

Something I learned that will help me in future courses is to take good study notes when I study the content. Once my note taking skills improved, it was easier to understand the content and relate it to what I had learned the weeks before. Good study notes also made it much easier to study for quizzes and for the final exam.

I also could have done better in the course if I had organized myself better from the start. For example, at first I did not . . . .

**Mode of writing:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Answer Key

- Excerpt 1.** **Persuasive mode of writing.** The writer is clearly trying to convince you to learn Mandarin Chinese.
- Excerpt 2.** **Descriptive mode of writing.** The writer relies on descriptions so that readers can visualize Kotoru Island.
- Excerpt 3.** **Narrative mode of writing.** When writers teach a lesson through storytelling, they use the narrative mode of writing.
- Excerpt 4.** **Expository mode of writing.** The writer explains to the readers how the Electoral College works. Lessons are typically written using the expository mode of writing.
- Excerpt 5.** **Reflective mode of writing.** You can see that the writer is reflecting on personal experiences in a course.

