Keys to Content Writing
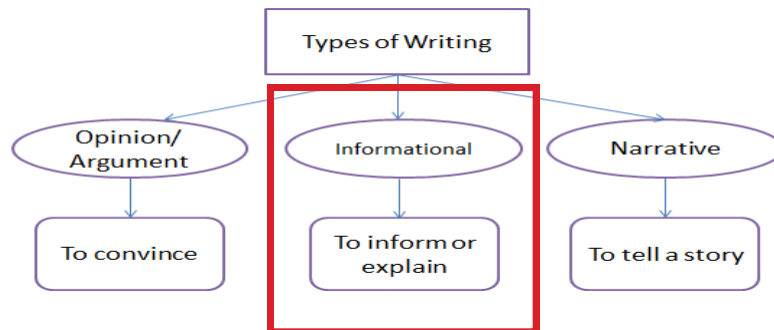
Why Informational Writing?

Our Keys to Content Writing PD on August 28th focused on using Writing Assignment Guides (WAG) to model text structure with Top-Down Topic Webs to help students in the THINK and PLAN stages of The Process Writing Routine. Why did we focus on Informational text given that we know the AZCCRS contains three types of writing?

Keys to Content Writing explains that as students move through the grades that by high school, student writing will be only 20% narrative, 40% argumentative and 40% persuasive. Given this information, it is important that we emphasize informational writing across all content areas and expose our students to many subject-specific writing genres.

Some examples and ideas for informational writing :

- Letter
- Speech
- Instructions/ Recipe
- Manuals/ Directions

- Resume
- Defining an idea
- Compare or contrast an item

- Summary of a text
- Causes / effects of an event or idea
- Explaining an idea

- Newspaper article
- Describing parts
- Historical report
- Explain a policy

Model text structure with your Component Cards!

How will you get your students to THINK ?

The Process Writing Routine notes that students should spend 40% of the time **thinking** and **planning** before they ever commit their ideas to paper!

Here are suggestions to consider when planning for the **THINK** stage:

- What strategies will you use to engage students in brainstorming? Either individually or as a group?

- How will students gather information related to the prompt and/ or take notes? How will you account for differentiated learning levels?
- How will you help students to make meaning from this assignment?
- What will you use to help student organize their thoughts and ideas?
- How will you help student identify the audience and use that knowledge to ultimately direct their writing?