



Writing Multimodal

Communication is not limited to written text, neither is writing. Composing a piece of writing can involve more than just a pen to paper. A writer can choose to provide links or attach images or sounds to a piece of work. (S)He can also use multimodal sources to generate ideas. To aid this thought, think of the variations of communications or modes as tools that further illustrate a purpose. Using multimodal texts can broad the span of audience.

There are five modes:

Linguistic: usually referred to as text or written word, word choice, organization of paragraphs or ideas, delivery of speech

Visual: any pictures or videos present, the format of the paper, size of the paper

Sound: auditory elements, sound effects even the tone of the speaker

Space: How the physical space on the paper or media is used? How does the speaker use the space?

Gestures: any gestures that appear either as images or how the speaker employs them, body language and facial gestures

To decide which mode or which combination of modes is most effective, think about the message and its' intended audience.

Throughout the writing process, a writer can use different modes in order to gather information or begin his (her) essay.

Create a storyboard of the essay or project, a visual representation of the placement of ideas or concepts.

Record the concepts or ideas as a way of getting the writer to zone into his or her thoughts.

Rearrange the text or design of the project to bring attention to the message.