Narrative Transformation Matrix

Narration

Mode   Exemplar

Exposition

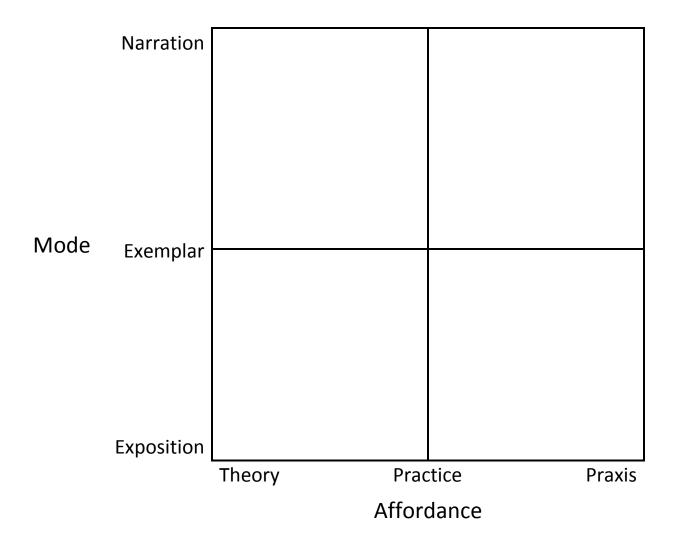Theory   Practice   Praxis

Affordance

Nonfiction texts consist of a mixture of features that can be described by the relative dominance of rhetorical modes (Exposition vs. Narration) and affordances (Theory vs. Praxis).

Mode: In rhetoric, a mode is a form of writing (mode of discourse), together with its conventions, practices, and persuasive goals. The four principle modes are narration, description, exposition, and argumentation. For our purposes, an "exemplar" is a narrative element which functions as an example in another mode.

Affordance: An affordance is a way that an artifact can be used. For example, a text can be used to expose a person to data, facts and ideas (theory); to guide or model productive activities (practice); and to initiate and support transformative action in a person's life and world (praxis).