# **Prose Essay Unit**

# Basic Writing Variables:

1. Topic: The subject about which the author is writing.
2. Purpose: the reason for writing. Essays are generally classified in one of three ways according to purpose:
3. Narrative: to entertain and inform through a story (implied thesis)
4. Descriptive: to describe and inform through picture-like images
5. Exposition: to argue, persuade, define, explain, or classify by use of logic and reason
6. Audience: the people whom the writer expects to read a piece of writing. Need to consider age, education, occupation, experience, knowledge level of potential audience, etc. A writer considers his or her audience when deciding on a subject, a purpose for writing and the tone and style in which to write.
7. Language: the type of words used in a piece of writing. Classified according to three levels:
8. Formal: impersonal pronouns, uncommon words, complex sentences
9. Informal: personal pronouns, common words, contraction, simple sentences
10. Non-standard: doesn’t observe the normal rules of grammar and usage: slang, shop-talk, dialect, jargon etc.
11. Tone: indicates the author’s attitude toward the subject matter or audience. (eg. Serious, humorous, satirical, etc.)
12. Mood: indicates the emotional response aroused in the reader to a piece of writing.
13. Voice: suggests the point of view from which a piece of writing is written. An author may write explicitly from his or her own point of view, or he or she may assume a persona, in which the author is hidden behind a mask or identity.
14. Thesis: the author’s main idea or argument. Must be an opinion