

How to Answer

Question 2: What Types of Writing did the Author use?

While still focusing on the overall passage, we want to note how the author recorded his message. Knowing this will make answering future questions easier.

1. Read through the entire passage again, looking for one or more of these six writing types:
 - **Instruction**—writing that includes guiding or teaching techniques like arguments for or against something, explanations, demonstrations, directions, even sermons.
 - **Law**—the recitation of specific, God-given commands or rules.
 - **Letter** (Epistle)—a message from the author to a specific audience that may include a greeting, prayer, main points, and a closing.
 - **Narrative**—a story featuring events, characters, and actions, and may also include setting information. Biblical narratives are further divided into *biographies* (centered around a single character) and *histories* (centered around a non-character theme).
 - **Poetry**—text written to encourage the reader to pause and think. Here you might find *comparisons* (which we'll examine more closely later in the process), *rhythmic repetition of words or phrases*, *personification*, and/or other kinds of *symbolism*.
 - **Prophecy**—descriptions of events expected to happen *after the writer received* the message.
2. Identify the type used most in your study text, and write it in your notes or, if you're using a [Scripture-study sheet](#) for the passage, write it on page 1 of your Scripture-study sheet.
3. If you noticed other types in use, note them in your study journal or on your Scripture-study sheet where you found them.

Hints & Hacks

- If your study text is shorter than a chapter, read the whole chapter of the book from which it's taken before deciding on its dominant writing type.
- Regardless of overall type, look for and label **instruction**, **poetry**, and **prophecy**, especially in the verses you highlighted or double underlined in your summary.