

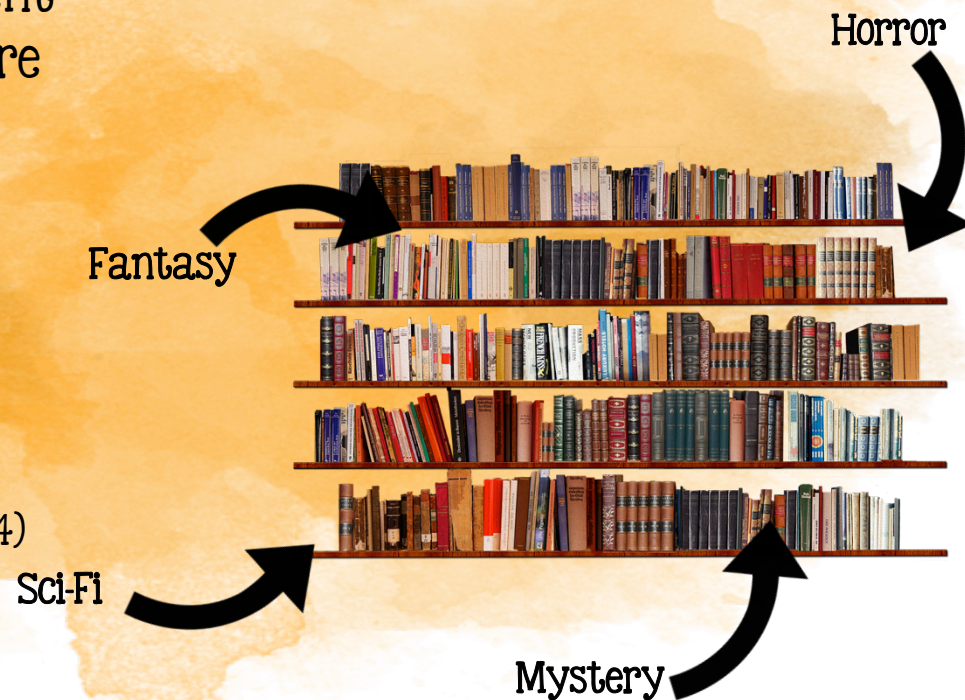
A large, irregular watercolor splash in shades of orange and yellow, centered on a white background. The splash has a textured, painterly appearance with varying intensities of color.

# **Methods of Development**

Compare-Contrast

# What are Methods of Development?

- ❑ Just like there are different **GENRES** of fiction, there are different **CATEGORIES** of argument.
- ❑ We have studied:
  - ❑ Cause-effect (unit 3)
  - ❑ Narration (unit 3)
- ❑ We will study:
  - ❑ Compare-contrast (unit 4)
  - ❑ definition/description (unit 4)



# Different Methods of Development

- ❑ **Cause-effect**: to provide the reasons that produced a certain result, or to identify the results produced by a certain phenomenon
  - ❑ Example: To give evidence that the presence of lead is contaminating a city's water
- ❑ **Narration**: to tell a story with people, places and events
  - ❑ Example: To tell the story of a family whose children have been exposed to lead poisoning
- ❑ **Compare-contrast**: to identify ways in which two things are similar (compare) and/or different (contrast)
  - ❑ Example: To profile a state's quick response to an affluent city's water contamination versus a slow response to a poor's city's water contamination.
- ❑ **Definition/description**: to explain what something is or to tell what it is like
  - ❑ To give a medical definition of lead poisoning and to describe the long-term effects it can have on children's developing brains.

# Different Methods of Development

For each argument topic, explain why one method of development might be an effective approach to convincing or persuading your audience:

1. To persuade your school board to make changes to the school dress code
2. To convince your community to support local fine arts programs
3. To persuade local sports fans it's worth it to come to this season's home opening game
4. To inform your college of choice of how you came to be a successful admissions candidate

CAUSE-EFFECT

COMPARE-CONTRAST

NARRATION

DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION

# Compare-Contrast

- ❑ To **COMPARE** means to explain how two or more things are **similar**.
- ❑ To **CONTRAST** means to explain how two or more things are **different**.

There's no reason to compare or contrast things that **don't share** any characteristics.

- ❑ Apples & oranges? Both fruit.
- ❑ Potatoes and books? Nothing in common.

Watch out for the **faulty analogy fallacy** in this method of development.

## Reading a **Compare-Contrast** Piece

- ❑ Identify the main topics the speaker is trying to explain.
- ❑ Identify the points of similarity and/or the points of difference.
  - ❑ What argument is made about each topic through this comparison or contrast?
  - ❑ Does the speaker take a “side” in this comparison or contrast, or in other words, have a bias?
- ❑ Read critically: is the speaker making fair comparisons or points of contrast?

# Writing a **Compare-Contrast** Piece

- ❑ Clearly establish your main topics for comparison or contrast
  - ❑ Develop this as the main claim or thesis.
  
- ❑ Clearly take readers through the characteristics that are similar and/or different between your main topics.
  - ❑ Develop this as your line of reasoning throughout your body paragraphs.
  
- ❑ Evaluate your writing to watch out for FALLACIES.
  - ❑ Do the two things have enough in common to be compared, or is it a faulty analogy?