

The Elements of the Popular Essay

The First-Person Interlocutor

- Speaks intimately, as if to a close friend.
- Speaks of sensory and bodily experiences, personal emotions and private thoughts.
- The self expressed in story and argument.

Ideas/Ruminations

- Speculate on the *meaning* of the narrator's experience.
- Provide *framework* for the stories.
- Begin to answer *questions* raised by argument.
- Heuristic, not definitive.
- Often expressed through **SOURCES** (See below.)

Story/Argument

- Personal anecdotes.
- Stories about other people.
- Stories about places.
- Stories about things.
- Historical argument.
- Philosophical argument.
- Scientific argument.
- Spiritual argument.
- Interior and exterior dialogue.

Sources: textual, graphic, pictorial; dialogue, quotation, equation, diagram; supportive, argumentative, ironic.