8 Types of Usual College Writing Assignments
List comes from research by Mike Rose at UCLA.

1. Listing. Delineate the areas in which Glazer and Moynihan have changed their views in the most recent edition of Beyond the Melting Pot.

2. Definition. Define the idea of the American Adam and apply it to Huck Finn.

3. Serration. The chronological, step-by-step format of the laboratory report. Discuss the escalating role of the media in the rise and fall of Senator Joe McCarthy.

4. Classification. The application of accepted categories to specific data. Discuss the varieties of attitude in John Donne’s love sonnets.

5. Summary. What is Hofstadter’s assessment of the Populist movement?


7. Analysis. Breaking down a text or phenomenon into constituent parts or causes. What does the following chart suggest about the relations between interest rates and home loans in the 1970s? What specific features of Constable’s “The Hay Wain” account for its tranquility? Analyze Dora’s dream from Freud’s perspective. Do a semiological analysis of a local food store.

8. Academic argument. Draw upon course work rather than general knowledge or value judgments to take a position. When, according to Locke, does the state have the right to take the life of one of its citizens?