Seeing myself as a Writer of Exposition

It was on this course that I was first introduced to the term expository writing. Previously I had always heard and used the reference to factual writing as transactional. For me using either reference has not made it any easier to write in this genre or mode. I hardly remember writing anything at school except when reading some old report cards which said I was ‘very good’ at ‘written expression’ which is what I thought writing was.

I became more aware of writing in this genre meant when I attended university in recent years and a lecturer told me after I had attempted one or two essays without a great deal of success, that I would do much better at writing for university purposes, (transactional or exposition writing whichever term you prefer), if I based my opinions on the readings and not on what I thought. Well what a revelation, my grades improved remarkably. I don’t believe I got any more excited about writing in an expository fashion, but I can say I became a lot more successful at it. My enjoyment for expository writing came from the grade I was awarded.

I find when writing in an expository genre I brainstorm the main ideas. I then add supporting detail to each of those main ideas making up paragraphs as I go. When I believe I have all the information I want to share or is required of me. I will order and link the paragraphs, adding an introduction or conclusion whichever comes first. Finally edit and publish. So for me writing in this mode being able to use a computer is great because I can quickly and easily cut and paste, edit and publish.

What I did find on this course was to have a real life experience like attending Covent Garden and watching the Mariinsky Ballet perform made the expository writing task less arduous. The researching and writing for the Review about the ballet and my experience of it, was so much more meaningful, engaging and educational. I learnt a lot about the ballet company and the stories behind the ballets that were performed. This all made the writing easier and dear I say enjoyable.

Other pieces of writing fashioned on this course which I also found enjoyable because of the real life experience were:

* Review or account of an experience at an English Pub.
* A scripted piece about an encounter with a Chinese international student.

However the latter piece of writing, written using a web-based site Bitstrips4school[s] disappeared never to be located again. After emailing the administrators of the site and receiving no reply from them I am now very aware that technology is a tool that has its frustrations. Pen and paper still has its place.

So do I see myself as a writer of exposition? The short answer would be no, because for me it does not come spontaneously or with a feeling of creativity. But yes, I do use this mode and will continue to do so as my writing circumstances necessitate.