Realism and Modernism
Realism followed the Civil War, when writers were concerned with the struggles of real life and ordinary people living ordinary lives.

The Realists believed that writing should tell it like it is. They focused on everyday characters engaged in daily struggles.

They believed that freedom was limited and that individualism was dangerous.
Regionalism and Naturalism were two movements in literature that corresponded with Realism. Naturalism, which focuses on the conflict between men and nature, was embraced by Jack London and Stephen Crane. Regionalism, or Local Color, was expressed by Mark Twain and Ambrose Bierce.
Modernism happened between the first and second world war.

Modernists experimented with new approaches to writing fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction.

Authors in the Modern period experimented with forms and styles and looked for the positive in life.
Visual artists of the modern period painted subjects as they imagined them rather than as they actually were. Writers imitated this by writing in stream of consciousness, where characters' feelings and ideas became more important than the actual events of the story.