How do I use bold, italics and typewriter fonts in LaTeX?

If you want to put a small piece of text in a specific type style, you can do it as follows:

\begin{em}
This text will be in italics
\end{em}
\begin{bf}
This text will be bold!
\end{bf}
\begin{tt}
This will be in a "typewriter font"
\end{tt}

If you want to put larger amounts of text into these type styles, you can use \begin and \end commands; i.e.:

\begin{em}
All this text will be italicized
\end{em}

If you want to be able to "stack" type styles (bold and italic, etc), then you need to use slightly different commands:

\begin{bfamily}
This is in bold \begin{em}
This is italic bold
\end{em}
\end{bfamily}

OR

\textbf{This text is only bold but \textit{this} was also italics}

Not all combinations of styles will have a font associated with them.

More information is available in the document LaTeX on Athena.