

GUIDELINES: NSC ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P3

[SOURCE: ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE PAPER 3 RESOURCE PACK / KZN PROVINCIAL TEAM]

ESSAY WRITING GENRES

2. THE DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY

- Description is both practical and ornamental. Both require clean, simple language.
- Move away from writing that is overly descriptive, adjective-laden, or simply gushingly over the top.
- Description is often used more to create atmosphere and mood rather than the use of a picture: films do this visually, writers do this with words, where the choice of words is more determined by their connotations than by the accuracy of their denotative use.

Make your descriptions **STAND OUT** from all the others.

EXAMPLE:

'My hand like a starved snake rears my pockets for my thin, ever lean wallet.'

(City Johannesburg / Mongane Wally Serote)

The following are SOME possible features of a descriptive essay which can be remembered with the acronym IFES.

- Devise Imagery associated with the senses (sight, sound, hearing, taste and touch).
- Use Figurative language.
- Use Emotive language.
- You are allowed to use Subjective language. This is where you write about your personal feelings and give your opinion.
