

GUIDELINES: NSC ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P3

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

ESSAY WRITING GENRES

3. THE REFLECTIVE ESSAY

‘The Reflective Essay Reflective essays present the writer’s views, ideas, thoughts and feelings on a particular topic, usually something they feel strongly about. It tends to be personal rather than subjective: it needs a careful structure, but it does not have to present a clear conclusion. Nor does it have to present a balanced discussion, although it might, it can be witty or serious.’
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement

- A reflective essay usually includes the writer’s emotional reactions or feelings.
- It could be about a dream, your hopes for the future or a past event.
- A reflective essay will be about what you think and feel about a topic.
- It shows your emotions, hopes and dreams.

The following are SOME possible features of a reflective essay which can be remembered with the acronym: KIT

K	KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE	• write about what you know, have experienced or observed. Include your thoughts, feelings and reflections.
I	IMAGERY	• use interesting words, figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, etc.) to describe or create an image/picture of your emotions and experience.
T	TENSE	• Vary the tense in your essay to describe / reflect on your past in relation to the present. • You may use the FLASHBACK technique where your essay begins in the present tense, makes reference to events/ experiences written in the past tense and then returns to the present tense.
