

GUIDELINES: NSC ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P3

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

ESSAY WRITING GENRES

4. THE ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

‘Argumentative essays tend to be subjectively argued, the defence or attack is consistent and well-argued as possible, but it will inevitably be one-sided; the conclusion clearly states where the writer stands and why.’

(Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement)

- The purpose of the essay is to try and convince, or persuade the reader to agree with that opinion.
- The writer’s opinion about the topic is clear throughout the essay.
- In an argumentative essay, you must express your personal opinion about the topic.

The following are SOME possible features of an argumentative essay which can be remembered with the acronym: PORS

P	PRESENT TENSE	• Write in the Present Tense.
O	OPINION	• You must begin your essay by stating your Opinion/ point of view on the topic. • Present your point of view in your introduction. • Avoid stating whether you agree or disagree with the topic.
R	REASON	• Support your views by giving Reasons and linking them together in a logical way. For example, use linking words like “because ...”, “this shows ...”, “however ...”, “therefore ...”
S	STRONG	• When ending the essay use a Strong conclusion that clearly and convincingly states your opinion. • You may repeat the same idea given in your introduction, but it must be written in a different way.
