

GUIDELINES: NSC ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P3

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

ESSAY WRITING GENRES

5. THE DISCURSIVE ESSAY

- Discursive essays tend to be more balanced, and present various sides of a particular argument: the structure is carefully and clearly planned: the tendency is toward objectivity, but the writer can be personal.
- While emotive language is possible, the best arguments here are won because they make good, reasonable sense.
- The conclusion leaves the reader in no doubt as to where the writer stands.
(Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement)

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

B	BOTH SIDES OF AN ISSUE	• Provide a balanced view. (advantages & disadvantages)
R	REASONS TO SUPPORT EACH VIEW	• Use links (however, therefore, this shows, so, etc.) to connect reasons to views.
O	OBJECTIVE	• Avoid personal pronouns (I, me, we) and emotions
T	TENSE	• Write in the present tense.

A SUMMARY OF THE GENRES OF ESSAY WRITING.

	ESSAY TYPE	CHARACTERISTICS
1.	NARRATIVE	• to entertain or tell a story.
2.	DESCRIPTIVE	• to describe in a vivid manner;
3.	ARGUMENTATIVE	• to argue a case for one side of a point to convince your reader of your opinion.
4.	DISCURSIVE	• to give a balanced view and present various sides of a particular argument.
5.	REFLECTIVE	• to give emotional reaction and feeling on a specific manner.
