

Writing

Many students experience difficulty in translating their knowledge into the written word. They find it difficult to express themselves in a sequential, logical structured way. They may also lack the confidence in their own writing abilities because of previous 'failures'.



When students come into second level they are more skilled at using one type of genre writing – they can tell stories. However, they will be required to write in several different genres such as:

Recount: Scene setting / re-telling events / closing

Report: Describe the way things are / were

Procedure: Recipe / instructions – material / illustration / diagram

Explanation: Series of logical steps to explain something

Persuasion: Promote point of view – statement / argument / reiteration

Discussion: Different view points – statement one side / other side / recommendations in summary.



Students are required to write using a variety of genres that depend on both the purpose of the task and the subject area.

Genre	Characteristics	Subjects
Recount	To re-tell what happened in logical progression To state prior knowledge of a given topic and to list down what is now known following the investigation of the topic	All
Writing Reports	A factual/technical description of a phenomenon Comparing and contrasting	Geography, Science, Home Economics, History, English, ESS, Technology
Writing an Explanation	State what is to be explained and give several reasons	Science, Maths, Materials Technology, Technology, Geography, ESS, CSPE, History
Writing Instructions	Statement – e.g. <i>Making a kite</i> List materials / equipment List steps Draw diagram	Home Economics, Materials Technology – wood and metal, Geography, ESS, Technology, ICT
Persuasion	Putting forward one point of view A position is stated The back up arguments given Re-statement of position in summary	History, Religion, CSPE, ESS, English, SPHE
Discussion	Give two sides of a situation and draw a conclusion based on the information. Statement of the issue Argument in support Argument against Recommendations	English, Religion, CSPE, SPHE, Geography

Languages (Irish, French, etc.) would use all genres at different times

6

Between The Lines

What are the types of writing styles necessary for your subject area?

Writing Demands of My Subject

Checklist

Subject _____

Which genre/s are the students expected to use when doing written work in this subject?

Genre	Regularly 1	Often 2	Sometimes 3	Never 4
Recount				
Writing Reports				
Writing an Explanation				
Writing Instructions				
Persuasion				
Discussion				