



University of Sussex

Sussex Centre for Language Studies

Academic Writing Guide

What is Discursive Writing?

So, what is discursive writing? Well a discursive essay is a genre of writing that asks you to investigate a topic; to gather, read and evaluate evidence; and to present a position on your topic based on the evidence gathered. The structure of a discursive essay is held together with a thesis statement which outlines your argument or your position on the topic. The key aim of a discursive essay is to convince your reader that the argument that you're presenting is a valid one. So discursive essays would be a typical assessment mode for undergraduate level.