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B.Com Honours

Semester II

Calicut University

Writing for Academic & Professional Success

Course Code: AEC3 • Module 3 Notes

1. Academic Essay Genres and Critical Writing

Academic work requires students to communicate ideas through different essay genres, each serving a specific rhetorical purpose. This module covers the primary essay genres (narrative, descriptive, expository, persuasive), critical reviews, and the structure of a literature review.

Primary Genres of Academic Essays

1. Narrative & Descriptive Essays

- **Narrative Essay:** Tells a story from a specific point of view, focusing on a clear plot, characters, and a central lesson.
- **Descriptive Essay:** Creates a vivid picture of a person, place, or object using sensory details (sight, sound, touch).

2. Expository & Persuasive Essays

- **Expository Essay:** Explains, illustrates, or clarifies a topic using facts, statistics, and examples (e.g., cause-and-effect).
- **Persuasive Essay:** Aims to convince the reader of a specific point of view using logical arguments and evidence, avoiding emotional biases.

Critical Reviews & Commentaries

A critical review is an evaluation of a book, scholarly article, or film. It goes beyond summarizing the plot to evaluate the author's arguments, methodology, evidence, and contribution to the field. Writing a balanced review requires highlighting both strengths and weaknesses objectively.

Structure of a Literature Review

A **Literature Review** is a comprehensive survey of existing research on a specific topic. It serves to synthesize findings, identify gaps in current knowledge, and justify new research. The structure of a literature review includes:

1. **Introduction:** Defines the topic, scope, and organizational theme of the review.
2. **Body Paragraphs:** Groups sources thematically, analyzing and comparing their methodologies and findings.

3. **Conclusion:** Summarizes the current state of research and highlights areas that require further study.

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