

# DISCOURSE ANALYSIS – CHAPTER TWO: GENRES

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LECTURER: **PHẠM HỒNG ANH**

# DEFINITION

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- Genres are types of spoken and written discourse recognised by a discourse community. Example: lectures, conversation, speeches, notices, advertisements, novels, diaries, shopping list.

- Text types have schematic structures, for example:

Instruction/Procedure: Goal – (Material) – Steps

Argument: Thesis statement/position – Argument A, B, C, etc – Restatement  
of position

Report: Title – General statement - Description

# GROUP WORK ACTIVITY

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Work in groups of four or five

Analyse the text in terms of the following items:

1. Format
2. Generic structure
3. Language (vocabulary and grammar)
4. Purpose and intended audience

# SAMPLE ANALYSIS: ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

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## I. Format:

- A title
- Five paragraphs

## Argument Essay

### Sample Argument paper:

#### Arranged Marriages

Many cultures believe in arranged marriages. Arranged marriages usually exist in the country of these cultures, such as India and Japan. Furthermore, many of these cultures bring this practice of arranged marriages to the United States, and they force their American raised children into marriages with people whom the children do not love. There are many people who are against arranged marriages, especially in the United States. On the other hand, there are many people who believe that arrange marriages should exist in America. I believe that arrange marriages should not exist in the United States because it is a free country, depression could occur, and it prevents true love

First, I am against arranged marriages in the United States because it takes away the freedom that America has to offer. Every person in America has the right to choose what he/she wants to do and whom he/she wants to be with. If people are forced into marriages, regardless of their culture, then it goes against everything that America stands for, which is freedom of choice. For example, I have a friend who is part of the Indian culture, but he is American raised. Although his parents live in America, they still forced my friend into a marriage against his free will. Well, the freedom that America offers did not apply to his parents, and my friend did not have the chance to experience the freedom that my other friends and myself got to experience. As you can see, America is a land of freedom, but arranged marriages take that freedom away, and everyone who lives here should be able to experience that freedom.

Furthermore, I believe that arrange marriages should not exist in America because it could cause depression. When you are with someone who you do not naturally love, you become unhappy. When you are unhappy, you become depressed. Depression prevents you from living a normal mental and physical healthy life. To illustrate, my next-door neighbors have an arranged marriage. The wife explained to my mother that she is very depressed because she did not marry someone she loved, and she was never depressed before this marriage. As a result, she never leaves the house, and she always looks frail when we see her. Perhaps if my neighbor did marry someone she loved, she would not be depressed.

A final reason why I am against arranged marriages in America is because true love is prevented. When true love is prevented, it becomes challenging to find or be with your soul mate. When a person does not have a soul mate, he/she tends to feel alone and incomplete. For instance, I watched a movie a long time ago, which was about a family who immigrated to America with another family. These two families arranged it that their kids would be married when they grew up. When the kids got married, they were not truly in love; they both loved other people. They lost their true soul mates, and they spent their entire marriage feeling alone, lost, and incomplete. Life is more fulfilling when you marry the one you love.

In conclusion, there may be specific reasons why arranged marriages exist; however, I am fully against them existing in America. Arranged marriages prevent freedom of choice, cause depression, and they prevent you from finding your true soul mate. My close friend never got a chance to experience the freedom that America offers because his parents forced him into an arranged marriage. Furthermore my family and I always feel bad for my neighbor's wife, who suffers from deep depression because of her arranged marriage. Finally, if the two characters in the movie that I saw would not have had an arranged marriage, then they would have been able to marry their soul mates and feel more fulfilled and complete in life. America offers many choices, and one of those choices should include being with the person who you want to spend the rest of your life with. Arranged marriages should not exist in America.

# SAMPLE ANALYSIS: ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

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## 2. Generic structure:

- An introductory paragraph with the thesis statement as the final sentence of the paragraph
- Three body paragraphs for three arguments
- A conclusion

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### 3. Language:

#### 3.1 Vocabulary: Formal, academic

#### 3.2 Grammar:

A variety of sentence/clause structures

# SAMPLE ANALYSIS: ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

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- 4. Purpose and intended audience:
- 4.1 Purpose: To argue, to persuade, to practise academic writing
- 4.2 Intended audience: The teacher/instructor of Academic Writing subject

## Argument Essay

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