Presented here is a panorama of the different manifestations of the essay written in the Latin American context during the last decades of the 20th Century, and also considered is that it has followed a process by which the genre passes from a stage of normalization that we identify as “solid ground” to a stage of great changes and transformations that allow us to talk about a “genre without shores”. We propose an interpretation composed of its principal tendencies, and among those, two extremes that we recognize as the form of the moral, and the moral of the form and between those tasks that, utilizing a distinction made by Ricardo Piglia, we name thinking and saying.

Keywords
essay, Latin America, culture, form of moral, moral of form.