English Studies – unpacking the HSC examination – part 4

HSC hub student support session – writing skills

## Student booklet

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## Advice to the teacher supporting students

If using in a classroom context you may like to:

* use this resource in a workshop setting with a group, whole class or an individual student to work through on their own
* pause the recording and ask students to read, reflect and write
* refer to school-based course work, text pairing and assessments to do the activities.

## Advice to the independent student

If using this resource at home independently you will need:

* a black pen and lined paper
* access to your school-based coursework for all modules
* a copy of the student booklet, either hard copy or digital
* access to the 2019 HSC marker feedback, the 2019 HSC examination and the sample examination materials for English Studies, all available within the NESA English Studies webpage.

You can use this resource to refine your understanding of the different styles of writing and expand your writing skills. This will help you in your preparation for section IV – writing skills.

# Part 4 – practising my responses for Section IV

## Type of text, form, audience, purpose and context – what do they mean?

Let’s review the definitions for each of these terms.[[1]](#footnote-1)

### Audience

The intended group of readers, listeners or viewers that the writer, designer, filmmaker or speaker is addressing.

#### Why is it important?

* Any piece that you compose is going to be done so with a particular audience in mind.
* The purpose of the piece is also influenced by the targeted audience.
* If you do not engage your audience, then your piece is not going to have any impact.

### Purpose

The purpose of a text, in very broad terms, is to entertain, to inform or to persuade different audiences in different contexts. Composers use a number of ways to achieve these purposes: persuading through emotive language, analysis or factual recount, entertaining through description, imaginative writing or humour, and so on

#### Why is it important?

* Purpose is connected to audience and context.
* The purpose of our text informs the decisions we make in terms of the type of text and the form in which we choose to write.

### Context

The range of personal, social, historical, cultural and workplace conditions in which a text is responded to and composed.

#### Why is it important?

* Our own context influences what we create.
* Without a clear context, a piece can be puzzling, confusing or even jarring for an audience. This may mean that the purpose of the piece can be lost and our audience will not engage.
* Write what you know! Drawing on our own context can help make our pieces feel more authentic – we can establish a clear purpose and engage our audience.

## Resource 1 – identifying type of text, form, audience, purpose and context

Table 1 - Sample planning table

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sample question | You have been invited to return to your school two years after graduation to speak to the current Year 12 class about the value of English Studies and the significant effect it had on you. Specifically, the teacher would like you to discuss the impact and value of schooling on your life now. Write the speech you would give to the class. |
| Requirements | Potential ideas |
| Types of text (imaginative, persuasive or informative) | Persuasive – arguing that education is powerful and can transform your life |
| Form | Speech |
| Audience | Year 12 students |
| Purpose | Persuading Year 12 to take advantage of the educational opportunities available |
| Context | Delivered at the Year 12 English Studies students |

For this question, you could create a speech with a five paragraph structure – an introduction, three body paragraphs and a conclusion.

### Activity 2 – applying your thinking

1. Complete the table based on the sample question below.

Table 2 - Planning table

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sample Question | The importance of films in our society today. You are writing an online blog post for an Australian teenage film review site. Your blog post is about why film is such an important text in our society today. |
| Requirements | Your potential ideas |
| Type of text (imaginative, persuasive or informative) |  |
| Form |  |
| Audience |  |
| Purpose |  |
| Context |  |

## Resource 2 – planning your response

1. Use the following questions to guide your thinking around some of the features of your response.

**What is the purpose of your piece?** ​

**What is the main idea in your response? ​**

**What do you want the audience to walk away thinking or feeling? ​**

**How are you going to make them think or feel this? ​**

**Why are you choosing these specific language features? Are they the best tools for the job?**

**Take five minutes to outline your response below.**

1. These definitions come from the glossary contained in the [English Studies Stage 6 Syllabus](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/stage-6-english/english-studies-2017/glossary)(2017) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2017.  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)