 Inking Your Thinking

Initial

Backward Looking

How have the texts studied so far (year 11 and 12) helped you ‘appreciate, analyse and evaluate the versatility, power and aesthetics of language?’

What does the ‘craft of writing’ mean to you?

Inward Looking

How would you rate your own crafting to date? What has improved? What are your strengths and what focus areas require further improvement?

Forward Looking

What tools do you still need to collect for your writer’s toolbox? What ones need polishing or updating?

Orwell

Backward Looking – Initial Read

Does this essay resonate with your pre-conceived ideas, knowledge and prior learning on writing and politics? Identify specific examples from the essay to support your thoughts.

Is this essay what you expected when you were told that we were studying an essay? How is it similar to/ different from the essays you have read and written previously?

Inward Looking – Initial Read

What comment is the Orwell making about: politicians and the use and misuse of language? Record textual evidence from the essay to support your thoughts.

Inward Looking – Responding Critically

How did Orwell persuade you to agree with his perspective on politics and language? What techniques and features were especially effective in conveying his arguments?

Outward Looking – Responding Critically

Did Orwell’s argument on politicians’ speeches ring true? Can you find current examples of the types of language offences that Orwell criticised in his own politicians?

Inward Looking – Six Questions, Six Rules

Do you ask yourself questions before starting a piece of writing? Do you use a set of rules to guide for composing? What is included in your current self-editing process? Do you find it challenging to edit it your work?

Identify at least one of Orwell’s questions/ rules that you identify as an area of improvement in your own work. How will it improve the quality of your writing?

Inward Looking – Task 1

Did using the Orwell’s rules improve your writing, and the writing of your partner, in Task 1? Did you find using the rule challenging? Did your confidence in using the rule increase with the second text? Were the rules easier to implement with the critical than the creative response?

Forward Looking – Task 1

How will you use Orwell’s questions and rules in your writing? Which one/s do you think will make the biggest difference to your writing in the future? At which stage of the writing process do you think they will be most beneficial?

Backward Looking – Extended, Building Context

Explain how your prior knowledge of context can be applied to studying this essay and developing a deeper understanding of the essay.

Backward Looking – Extended, Building the Field

Did the knowing the rules change the way you reacted to the speech? Did those rules change the way you responded to the text - in the initial read and/or the way you critically analysed it?

Inward Looking – Extended, Building the Field

Did using Orwell’s rules improve the chosen section? Did you find using the rules as challenging on someone else’s writing as it was on your own? Did your confidence in using the rules increase with each use?

Final Reflection – Short and Extended

After reading the essay, and completing the activities, explain how your learning and experiences in studying Orwell’s ‘Politics and the English Language’ is an effective exemplar for understanding the Craft of Writing. Use your knowledge and learning to respond to the following questions.

How do writers craft language forms and features to comment on the world around them?

In what ways do the writer’s purpose and intended audience impact on their choices of form, medium, language and techniques?

How can reflecting on our own and others’ texts help us become better writers? What have you added to your writer’s toolbox from the study of this text and form?