

English A: Language and Literature SL

Written Assignment 03

Length: 800-1000 words + rationale 200-300 words.

Weight: 20%.

Assessed: Internally. Students will submit a proposal and first draft for their WA. In both cases, the student will receive feedback. The final draft will then be assessed by the instructor.

Description: For this assignment, the student creates a text that demonstrates critical engagement with an aspect of a major text studied in the course; for our class, this will be *The Round House*. The style of the piece must mimic a particular text type. This could be anything from a traditional opinion piece or speech, to a website or blog.¹ The content of each task must relate to one IB Area of Exploration and at least one English A “Concept.”²

Rationale: A Rationale must accompany the assignment. This is a space for students to discuss *why* they have chosen to fashion their assignment as they have. Here, students must explain

- what aspect or element of the major text they are exploring.
- how the content of your written assignment text is linked to a particular IB “Area of Exploration” and one or more IB English A “Concepts”

There should also be information about audience, purpose and the varying contexts in which your creation is set.

Finally, the rationale should show knowledge about the formal conventions of the text type produced and how they relate to the aims of your exploration.

The Stimulus Text: Students are encouraged to use a stimulus text as a reference through which they may better understand the form and content of a chosen text type. So, for example, if the student chooses to create an opinion piece for their WA, they may find an example online, study its form and content and for the purposes of creating a more “authentic” opinion piece of their own.

The Bibliography: Works referenced in the WT should be cited in a brief bibliography following the Written Task. If a stimulus text has been consulted, it can be cited in the bibliography or included after the bibliography page as a reference for the examiner. The stimulus text will not be considered in the assessment, but it may be helpful in giving the instructor a better idea of what the student is trying to do.

Purpose: The Written Assignment is designed to demonstrate the student’s ability to choose an imaginative way of exploring an aspect of a major text studied in the course. Rather than writing a formal essay, the Written Assignment is a more open opportunity to consider different methods for conveying engagement and understanding.

¹ **Note:** a formal essay is not an acceptable text type.

² [Follow this link](#) to a description of IB “Areas of Exploration” and “Concepts.”

Further Guidance:

Here are some text types and approaches one could use for their WA.

- **An additional episode** that takes place before the beginning of a novel and provides context for the opening sequence
- **A letter** from one fictional character to another, which reveals a change in the relationship between the two characters
- **Editorial:** An opinion piece that conveys a critical, personal point of view using a generally formal (persuasive) tone
- **A short story** exploring a minor character's view of the main action of a literary text
- **An episode** from a literary text rewritten to place the action in another setting
- **Pamphlet:** An information text that seeks to instruct or inform the reader. This can possibly be used to persuade but is more intentionally informative
- **Blog:** An electronic format that is often highly personal, and critical. This can have similar intentions to an essay but is generally less formal with less requirement to substantiate arguments in reference to external sources
- **Website:** A non-linear format of information presentation with multiple strands branching off from a common point. Generally shorter or more succinct than a more formal text but also with an emphasis on inter-connectedness with a variety of other subject matter, media or text types
- **A diary entry** in which a character from a work of fiction reveals his or her true feelings about another character or any aspects of the action of a literary text

Here are examples of “aspects” or “elements” of a text.

- Characterization
- Perspective
- Narrative Voice
- Imagery
- Motif
- Symbol
- Diction
- Typography
- Arguments, Implicit and/or Explicit
- Thematic Concepts
- Thematic Statements
- “Global Issues”
- Other?