



Student booklet

Messages in text

Year 8	English
Name	

Your task is to write informal and formal functional texts that persuade different audiences to your views about a world issue. These narratives will use different structures and language conventions based on the purpose, audience and mode.

You will:

- write at least three informal nonlinear texts (email or blog)
- transform the informal text into a formal letter.

Resources:

- Blog starting point site: <www.blogger.com/start>
- Language use: <www.cybergrammar.co.uk/discourses_cohesion.php>
- Letter styles: <<http://englishplus.com/grammar/lettrcont.htm>>
- Formal letters: <www.usingenglish.com/resources/letter-writing.html>
- Writing style: <<http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/studyskills/academic/writing-style/index.html>>

Section 1. Nonlinear narrative

Name..... Partner.....

First draft due Due date

Texts use many different methods to communicate information.

Your task is to write a series of emails or blog messages (nonlinear narratives). When writing a text that requires your audience to accept a particular viewpoint, consider factors such as language choice, formal or informal tone, flow of ideas and structure.

Conditions

- You have four work sessions to complete this section.
- Total length for emails or blog messages is 200–300 words (lead statements only).
- During the fourth session, have your teacher sign your completed messages.

Steps to follow

1. **Select** a partner — you will respond to each others emails or blog messages.

You will need to:

- use persuasive language to convince an audience to accept your particular view or stance
- write at least three entries that provide new information, continue ideas and share facts using persuasive language
- base your texts on one specific real world issue or a personal concern, e.g. the water crisis, national Indigenous health, global warming, bullying.

Hints

- Language elements — use informal language. Spelling, tense and punctuation can be inconsistent.
- Text structure — paragraphing not featured, inclusion of URLs or attachments, continuous informal conversation flow and sharing of ideas.

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2. **Decide** whether you will use an email or blog format.
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3. **Choose** a topic.
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4. **Plan** your ideas before you start to write. Keep all draft materials.
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5. **Exchange feedback** with your partner about the use of persuasive language, word choice and clarity of ideas. Make necessary changes and adjustments based on this feedback.
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6. **Refer** to the Informal writing conventions provided by your teacher.
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7. **Use** the *Guide to making judgments* sheet provided while working on this assessment.

Your teacher will provide additional resources.

Section 2. Formal text transformation

Name Partner

First draft due Due date

When you transform text from one mode to another, the structure of the language changes according to the audience, while the main ideas or themes remain the same.

Your task now is to transform your email or blog messages into a formal letter text. When writing a text that requires your audience to accept a particular viewpoint, consider factors such as language choice, formal or informal tone, flow of ideas and structure.

Conditions

- You have two work sessions to complete this section.
- Length: 200–250 words.
- Submit your transformed formal text, emails or blog messages and draft materials at the conclusion the sixth session.

Steps to follow

1. **Select** your audience, e.g. your Principal, a member of parliament, a researcher.
 - You will need to persuade a different audience about the real world issue or concern outlined in your messages.
2. **Use** your nonlinear narrative to guide the content of your formal letter.
3. **Review** the features of formal written text. Refer to the *Formal letter writing conventions* provided by your teacher.
4. **Share** your progress with your partner as you work. Use their feedback to edit your work.
Your teacher will provide additional resources.