



# Student booklet

## Soap opera proposal

Year 9	English
Name	

Write a proposal to a television producer suggesting an idea for a new soap opera. Your proposal must include “standard” soap opera conventions and at least one non-stereotypical character.

**You will complete:**

- a brief synopsis of your idea for a soap opera
- a storyboard for one key scene
- a business letter to a television producer to persuade them to produce your soap opera.

**Due date:** .....

## Section 1. Write a synopsis

A *synopsis* is an outline or summary that gives the reader a general idea of the plot in a brief format.

As a writer who has plans for a great new teen soap opera, you will write a synopsis of your new television show.

You will also write a business letter to a television producer to try to persuade them to produce your soap opera. You will include in your letter:

- your synopsis
- a visual plan in the form of a storyboard.

Once you have decided on an idea for your soap opera you can begin writing your synopsis and then go on to create a storyboard.



### ***Planning your soap opera***

Your aim as a writer is to come up with story-lines and characters that will challenge current stereotypes. You can do this by focusing on a non-stereotypical character and exploring their role in the community.

Soap operas usually have:

- five to six story-lines happening at the same time
- scenes that last about 40–50 seconds each. The scenes are short to maintain audience attention.

You will plan your soap opera using these typical features.

**Follow these steps and fill in the Soap opera planning table on the opposite page.**

#### **Step 1.**

Decide on a setting for the show.

#### **Step 2.**

Choose the main characters, including one non-stereotypical character.

#### **Step 3.**

Develop a story-line that allows your non-stereotypical character to challenge current stereotypes.

#### **Step 4.**

Include a climax or conflict.

**Soap opera planning table**

Features	Descriptions
<b>Setting</b>	
<b>Characters</b>	
<b>Story-line</b>	
<b>Climax or conflict</b>	

***Writing your synopsis*****Guidelines to help you write your synopsis**

- Focus on giving a broad overview rather than a lot of specific detail.
- Highlight aspects of a non-stereotypical character and justify why you believe it is important that this character is included (e.g. state how non-stereotypical characters reflect culture and provide new insights and new role models for a teen audience).
- Draw attention to your non-stereotypical character by exploring characteristics that contrast with the established stereotype (e.g. presenting a science teacher as an eccentric, mad scientist is the accepted stereotype, however in your soap opera a science teacher could be represented as a sensible, conservative person).
- Use present tense.
- Limit your synopsis to around 200 words.

## **Section 2. Create a storyboard**

A storyboard is a form of graphic organiser. In many ways, it is very much like a comic because it has sequential images and words organised in frames to tell a story. It is a visual plan that includes media techniques, such as camera shots and angles.

### **Select one scene for your storyboard**

Look at your synopsis and select one scene that will emphasise the merits of your soap opera.

To help you decide, think about:

- the relationships between the characters
- a scene involving climax or conflict, which could be an important moment or turning point in the non-stereotypical character's development.

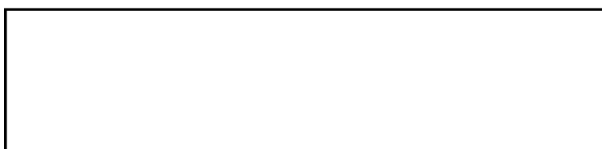
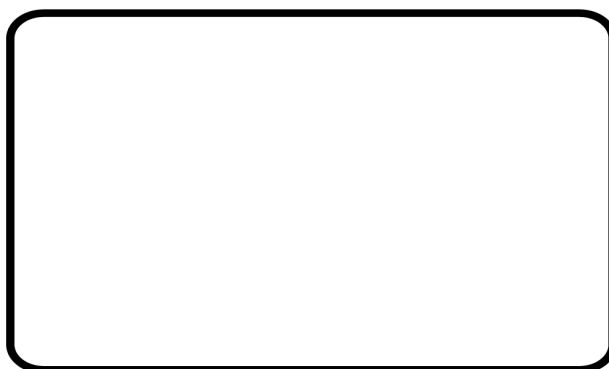
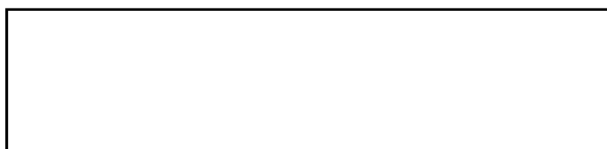
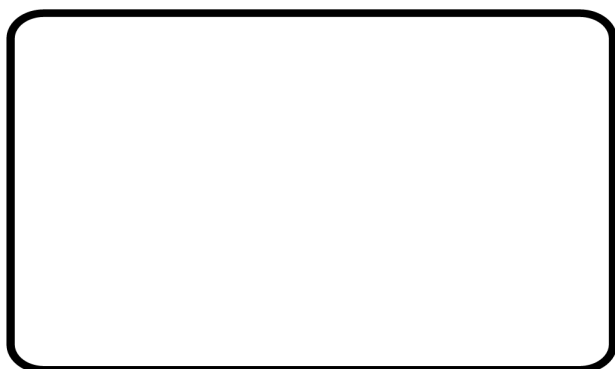
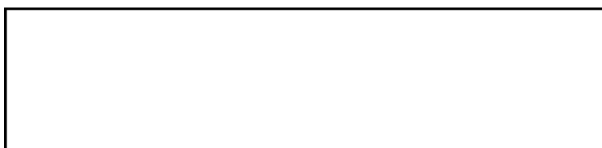
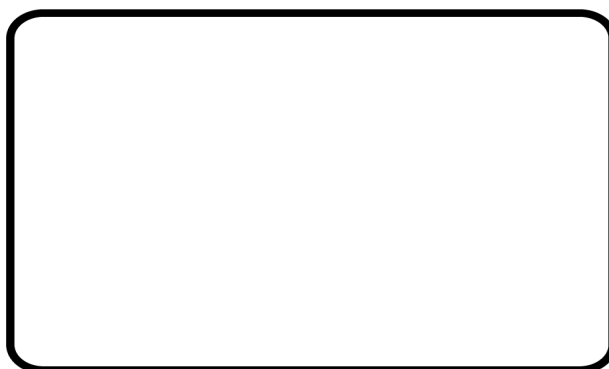
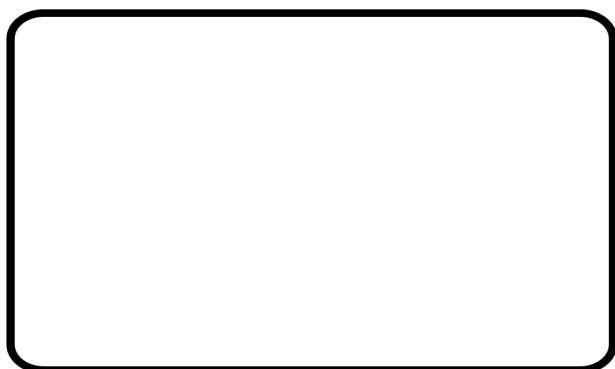
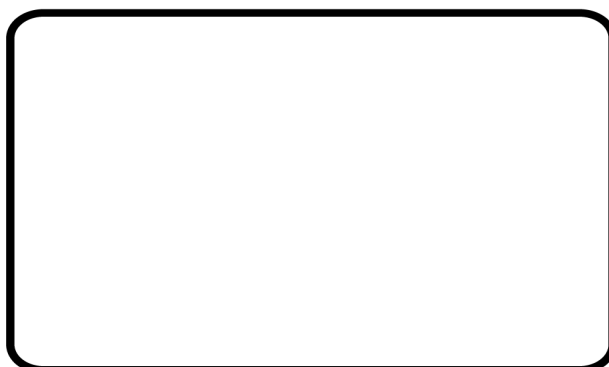
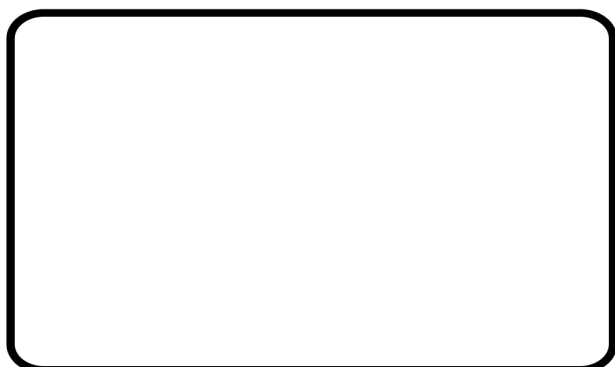
### **Use the features of a storyboard**

Your storyboard will need to be at least six frames long and include:

- a focus on the non-stereotypical character and their interaction with at least one other character
- sketches that reflect the main action occurring in the scene
- accompanying text that expands on images and describes action
- camera angles, shots and direction (i.e. media techniques and conventions).

## **Blank storyboard**

You can use this template to create your storyboard. You can choose to cut and paste illustrations from readily available materials or draw stick figures. Note: Your artistic skill will not be assessed if you choose to draw.



## **Section 3. Write a proposal**

Your proposal will be in the form of a business letter and will include your synopsis and storyboard. Your letter should be approximately 200–300 words in length.

### **You will need to:**

- use a formal letter structure
- state who you are and why you are writing
- introduce your idea clearly
- use formal language that is persuasive and clear
- include your synopsis in your letter
- write in complete sentences and paragraphs
- conclude your letter by summarising your proposal. Use convincing language that states why you believe your proposal should be approved.

### ***My checklist***

#### **My proposal includes:**

- ☐ a business letter to a television producer that uses formal and persuasive language to position my intended audience to accept my point of view
- ☐ a synopsis of the soap opera within the business letter
- ☐ a storyboard depicting a key scene, using at least six frames
- ☐ an understanding of one non-stereotypical character and how to challenge stereotypes
- ☐ reflects an understanding of the features of a soap opera
- ☐ accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation.