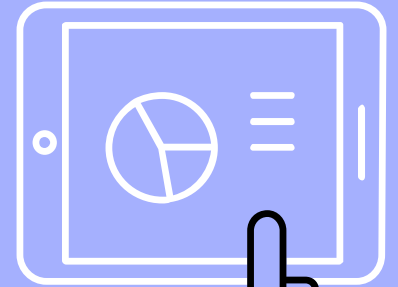
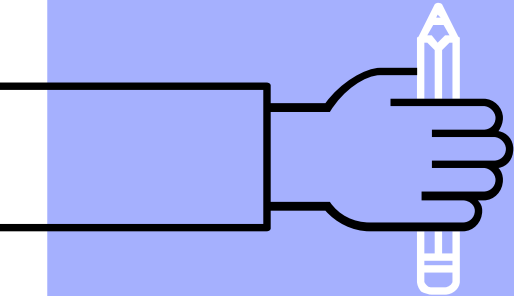
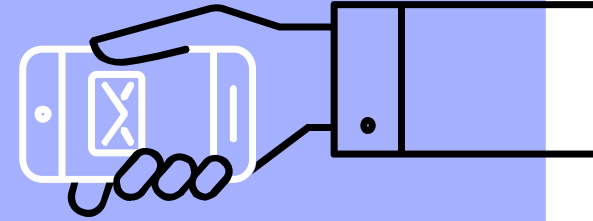
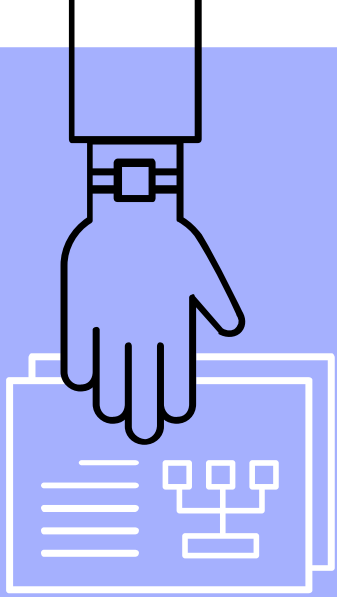
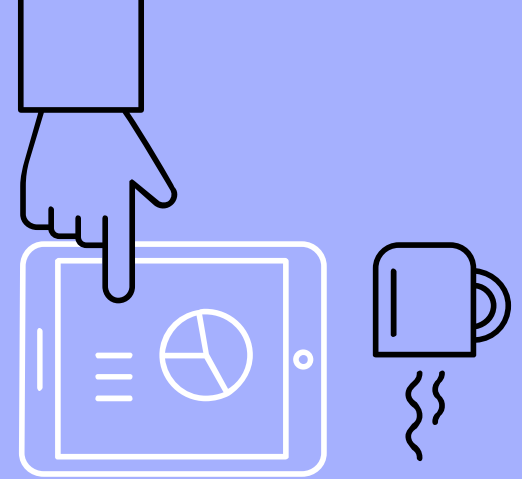


# Becoming a better writer



# The three main types of writing:

- 1. Writing to inform**
- 2. Writing to argue**
- 3. Writing imaginatively to entertain your reader**



## Be focused and objective

Your purpose is to make the information clear to your readers, not to give them your own opinion on the subject, so stick closely to the subject and don't be tempted to add comments of your own.

# Writing to inform or explain

- ~ Writing to inform or explain is writing which is **factual**.
- ~ It is important that factual writing is as clear as possible, whether you are explaining a situation, an activity or an interest, or providing some instructions for carrying out a task.
- ~ Make sure your writing is focused and objective, clear and systematic.

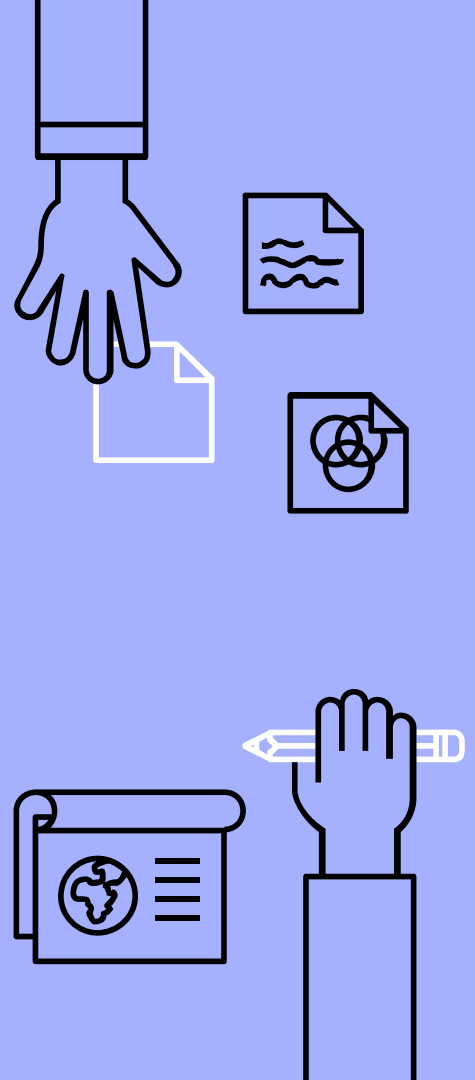
# KEY TERMS

## **Factual:**

A factual piece of writing contains details that can be proved to be true.

## **Factual writing:**

Writing which explains or gives information in a straightforward, unbiased way, not influenced by the personal opinions of the writer.



- Use vocabulary that is easy to understand.
- If you are answering a directed writing extended response to reading question, be careful not just to repeat chunks of the original text; instead, find simpler ways to express the same ideas so that you are genuinely explaining them.
- Use sentences that are not too long or complicated.
- Make sure your punctuation is accurate and helpful so that readers can easily see their way from one point to the next.
- Use a new paragraph for every main point that you make: start the paragraph with a ‘topic sentence’ to tell your reader what the paragraph will be about and use the rest of the paragraph to develop the point.

## **Be clear and systematic**

The point of an explanation is that it should be simpler and clearer than the original.

Here are some techniques to help you achieve this:



“

*Example of an  
informative text*

## ***The riddle of the Nile***

*(Pg. 48-49 and exercise 2)*



# WRITING TO ARGUE

This kind of writing needs to be convincing and logical.

*Here are some useful techniques.*

- Decide what you want to persuade your reader to believe. Which viewpoint are you going to put forward?
- Make 'for and against' lists: one list of the facts and ideas from the text that support your viewpoint, and another list of those which do not.
- State your chosen viewpoint simply at the beginning.
- For each main point that you make to support your viewpoint, give evidence and examples to back up your case- use the text!

- Be balanced- your argument will be most convincing if you make points for both sides but prove that your own chosen viewpoint is the better one. Use your 'for and against' lists.
- Use paragraphs to help you make your points clearly.
- Use persuasive phrases such as: 'It seems clear to me that ...', 'The text shows that ...', 'This example indicates that ...'.
- Use linking phrases to move between the two sides of the argument, such as; 'Nevertheless ...', 'On the other hand ...'.
- Finish by restating your viewpoint, perhaps saying also that although you can see the other point of view, you are convinced that yours is the right one.



Example <sup>“</sup> of a  
persuasive writing

**Negative impact of  
tourism on the  
environment**

*(Pg. 52-53 and exercise 4)*



# WRITING IMAGINATIVELY TO ENTERTAIN YOUR READERS

~ If you are writing an imaginative piece- narrating a story or writing a description, for example- because you are hoping to engage a reader's imagination and not just give factual information, you will not have to structure your piece in the same logical, argued way as for an informative or persuasive piece.

~ Perhaps most importantly, you need to know how your story will end before you start. You might want your ending to be surprise to your readers, but it shouldn't be a surprise to you! The beginning is important, too.

- A good piece of imaginative writing is varied and inventive. Here are some ideas on how to make sure your skills in this area are clear to the reader!
- Be varied and inventive.
- Use some words which are abstract and colourful.
- Use descriptive vocabulary: adjectives, adverbs.
- Use imagery, for example, 'she grinned like a crocodile'.
- Use exclamations and / or words that convey their meaning through sound. /These might be dramatic, for example, 'Thud!', 'Crash!'; or they might just be well-chosen words that convey the exact sound you have in mind, for example , 'tinkling', 'rustled'./
- Your paragraph should vary in length. An occasional very short paragraph can make a strong impact. Some paragraphs might even be just one word long, such as 'Help!'
- Your sentences should also vary in length- this is a good way to have an effect on your reader's feelings. For example, if you have just been setting a frightening scene, a short sentence such as 'We waited.' or even just 'Silence.' can be very effective.

# KEY TERMS

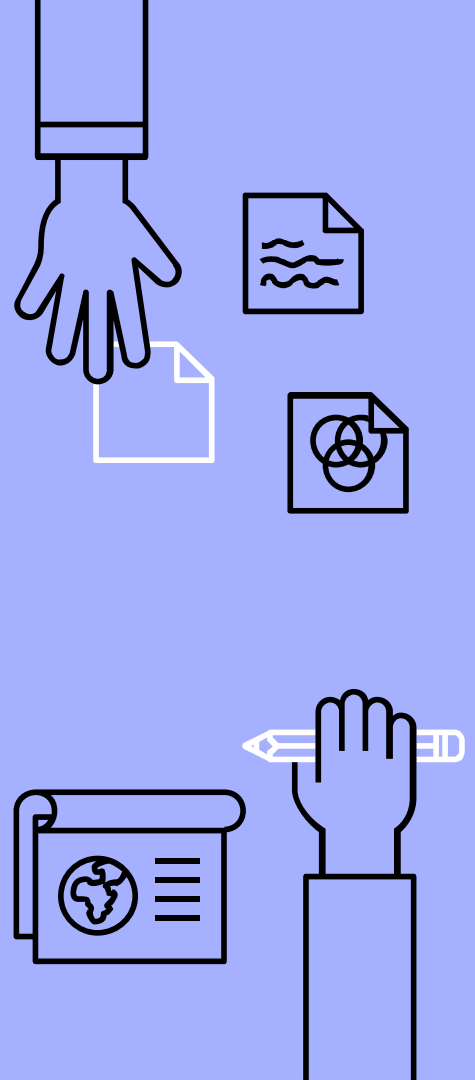
~ Imaginative writing: Imaginative writing is writing that is not concerned with giving factual information but which creates a story and setting from the writer's imagination.

~ Adjective: A word used to describe a noun, e.g. the angry teacher.

~ Adverb: A word, frequently ending in -ly, that is used to describe the action expressed by a verb. Ex: The teacher shouted angrily at the class.

~ Imagery: Language/such as similes/ used to create a figurative description.

~ Exclamation: A sudden outcry or remark, usually showing surprise, anger or pain.





“  
*Example of  
imaginative writing*

## **Sunrise on the Moon**

*(Pg. 52-53 and exercise 4)*



**Any questions?**

