

Name: _____



English

Homework Booklet



Year 7

Term 2: Transactional Writing

Homework 1	Learn Key Vocabulary	Due date: 11/11/2022	Completed?
Homework 2	Guided Reading Activity	Due date: 25/11/2022	Completed?
Homework 3	Independent Writing Activity	Due date: 9/12/2022	Completed?

Homework 1 - Learn the keywords below for a mini test at the start of next lesson.

Keyword	Definition
Anecdote	Using real life examples to support your argument.
Bias	Prejudiced in favour of or against a person, product, situation or idea.
Colloquial Language	The way we speak when in informal situations e.g. with family or friends – can include slang.
Convention	The typical or expected features of a form or genre e.g. the usual structure, language and tone.
Credibility	The quality of being trusted, convincing or believable.
Inference	A conclusion or opinion that is formed based on facts/evidence.
Hyperbole	Using exaggeration for effect
Standard English	The standardised form of English based on fixed academic grammar, spelling and punctuation. It is the form of English taught globally and is consider formal and polite.
Tone	The attitude that a writer expresses towards a subject.
Transactional Writing	Non-fiction writing that intends to communicate information between individuals or groups.

Vocabulary revision methods:

- You could create flash cards to help you remember.
- You could print and cut out the key words and definitions and create a match up activity
- You could get someone to test you.

Optional challenge:

- Use three of the key words in sentences of your own. e.g.

The article showed bias against teenagers by making unfounded statements such as 'all teenagers are lazy.'

Homework 2 – Below is an open letter, written by young people, working with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime. It was written in 2019 and delivered to the Prime Minister at the time, Boris Johnson. Read the letter and answer the questions.

Return address:
Office of Sarah Jones MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
8 August 2019

RRT Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

We are a group of young people who have all been directly affected by knife crime, writing to you as the new Prime Minister, to ask that you take action right now to tackle the knife crime crisis. We are glad the Government is finally becoming more aware of the problem. But more and more of our generation are still dying. More needs to be done, as soon as possible.

As young people we see and hear every day the reality of knife crime from thinking it is normal for people to carry knives to hearing that someone you know has been stabbed. We understand how young people think about the problem. The only way to make sure what's done will actually work is to listen to us. That's why we are asking you to host a meeting in Downing Street with young people like us, so you can hear first-hand why we think knife crime is happening and what needs to be done about it.

Politicians talk about knife crime being done by 'bad people' or 'thugs' or 'gangs'. But the reality is lots of young people are picking up knives because they are scared. Often they are victims too. From what they have seen, heard and experienced growing up, many feel like violence and knife crime is just the norm, so carry a knife as a precaution, to feel protected.

Others think they have no choice other than being involved in crime, because they are pressured into it, or because they are poor, or don't feel like there are any jobs out there for them. Especially if they already have a criminal record or reputation, it follows them around and makes it hard to change. It's true some young people are in gangs and are involved in drug dealing, and carry knives in case they are attacked by rivals. But instead of ostracising and over-policing them, politicians should be asking what has driven them to join a gang or carry drugs in the first place.

Young people feel neglected, labelled, and stigmatised by society. The support available at the moment can contribute to this feeling, as can the police. It seems like there aren't community police who understand local issues, build relationships and try to help. It's good that you have said you will bring back police. But they need to work with communities. The focus should not be on young people just being stopped and searched all the time. It's clear from the number of people in prison, from reoffending rates, and from the increases in knife crime that punishment is not a deterrent.

We have got to start afresh with the way we approach the situation - it can't be solved with one insular solution. There are a lot of emotional and psychological issues that need to be addressed in communities, and support should help young people deal with any traumas they may suffer from, consciously or unconsciously. Young people need guidance. They need a sense of hope and self-worth. They need to be

shown positive alternatives, but for this to be possible there need to be more opportunities. We need more funding and resources put back into youth work, outreach workers, clubs and activities. Schools should not be so quick to exclude children.

Every day more young people are picking up knives and every day more young people are ending up in hospital stabbed. These problems require new ideas: asking young people what they need and how they think the government can help would be a step in the right direction. As Prime Minister we need you to make this problem your top priority, and we want to help you do so. We hope that you will accept our request to meet with you to talk through the issue. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime is happy to help organise the meeting.

Best wishes

The undersigned

Questions

1. What letter conventions can you identify?

.....

2. What makes this an open letter rather than a standard formal letter?

.....

3. Give three reasons why, from the letter, young people may be pressured into carrying knives.

.....

4. What possible actions are being suggested in the letter to tackle this serious issue?

.....

5. Choose one line from this letter that you believe is very effective. Why it is effective?

.....

Homework 3 – Read this extract from *Refugee Boy*, where the issue of knife crime is addressed. Imagine you are one of the students at Great Milford school and write an open letter (2/3 paragraphs) to the headmaster about the impact of knife crime on your school and what could be done to tackle the issue.

Refugee Boy Chapter 9 – First Class (pages 100-101)

... Alem sat right at the back of the assembly hall listening to the headmaster speaking. He had never seen anything like this. Teachers looked on from various points around the hall as the headmaster delivered his address to the fidgety pupils from the raised stage. Alem was mesmerised.

‘Unfortunately, two boys were permanently excluded last week for bringing knives on to the school premises. We exclude pupils only very reluctantly from this school, but there are simply no two ways about it, we will not tolerate the presence of any weapons on these premises. We, all of us here, sent a message of condolence, to St Luke’s when Mr Gatsby was stabbed to death in his own classroom. And them, in this very hall, we spoke about what could have possibly led up to such a killing taking place in an educational institution. And all of us agreed – and if I remember well, there were no dissenting voices – that we would try our very best to make sure that we never reached that point. Well, this was the second time those boys had been caught with knives. They simply could not be allowed to get away with it a second time, so I was left with no alternative but to exclude them. Let this be a lesson to you all, but more important, let the

