

St. Gregory's Catholic High School



English Language A Level Preparation Activity

You will be setting up an online blog. Blogging is a great way to build up a portfolio of writing and is especially valuable if you are thinking of a career in writing or journalism.

Instructions

1. Read the instructions at <http://bloginstructions.blogspot.co.uk/> and set up a new blog.
2. Make a note of your username and password (and remember them).
3. You should try to create one blog post of a maximum of 500 words (task below). One of the important criteria for creative writing (and English language in general) is accuracy in terms of your spelling, grammar and punctuation. Also, make sure you are using paragraphs.

Task: "Feature Journalism"

Find an online article on The Guardian Lifestyle website <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/lifeandstyle> and then write a blog entry, based on a similar style, about your experiences over this most unusual summer. This could be about lockdown, not having done your exams, or maybe something you do once lockdown is over. It is fine to copy the style of the article, but not the content.

Additional Suggested Tasks

Word Classes

There are 8 classes of words in the English Language. Using the internet, write out definitions of them in your own words and annotate examples in a text of your choice. Choose a text you read anyway for the annotation task and do the annotations by hand.

Word Classes

Investigate different types of nouns and verbs and write-up your findings in under 100 words. Focus on the noun/verb meanings rather than the jobs they do in sentences.

Sentence Types

Find out the definition of simple, compound and complex sentences. Write up the definitions in your own words. This one is fairly straight forward. No tips from us needed.

Sentence Types

Try writing a paragraph about your summer using only one type of sentence structure. Simple is the easiest starting point but challenge yourself to try complex too.

Sentence Functions

Find out what the four different sentence functions are and write definitions in your own words. Annotate a text of your choice identifying the different sentence functions. These are sometimes called sentence moods. Consider using a copy of the text you used for the word class task.

Topical Writing

Find an opinion piece you disagree with and print it out. Write a response in a similar style that explains why you disagree. This should be 250 words long. Try anything written in The Daily Mail.

Reading

Try reading A Little Book of Language by David Crystal or try Mother Tongue by Bill Bryson. Or try both! This would be a great chance to join a good-sized library.