

Writing - Lifting It Up!

Aspects of Style



- **FIND YOUR OWN VOICE** - try to get into the habit of writing as if you were talking (without the slang and swear words)
- Do you ever find that you're stuck for an opening statement? **RHETORICAL QUESTIONS** work well as they pose a question as a statement; after using one you can then go on to answer/explore it...
- **PARALLEL STRUCTURES** in sentences work well stylistically, especially in threes:
"Democracy means simply the bludgeoning of the people by the people for the people." Oscar Wilde
- Avoid **WORDINESS** (circumlocution) - get to the point, say what you want to say. Read what you've written and ask yourself whether it makes sense and whether any parts are unnecessary.
- Use starter sentences that **LINK** your three ideas together:
*"Another aspect of ***** worth considering is...."*
*"Finally, it is worth considering *****"*
- Use a **THESAURUS!** Don't go over the top, but be aware that a strong and varied vocabulary will always impress readers...
- Try and **VARY THE LENGTH OF YOUR SENTENCES**. You'll be surprised just how much it helps a reader to have a mix of sentences to read. In the same vein, don't just use commas and full stops - think colons (:) for the start of lists, think semi colons (;) essentially where a longer pause than a comma could be useful. Also, hyphens (-) for added information at the end of a sentence.
- **GET THE BASICS RIGHT:**
 - "quote-marks" for titles/language that is deliberately informal.
 - Author's names used either in full or surnames, **NEVER** use only their first names.
 - Miss a line between paragraphs.
 - **SEXY** (Statement, Explanation, eXample, Your opinion).
 - An **INTRODUCTION** does just that! (pose a question/statement to reader, outline topic and your view, as briefly as possible outlines three main points)
 - A **CONCLUSION** sums up your main viewpoint and finishes on some sort of a final statement or question.
 - If you can get out of the habit, avoid using **"I THINK"** for your opinions. The essay is all yours, the marker knows that.
- Most importantly, **BACK YOURSELF!** Have a little confidence in your own ability to come up with the goods. Your teacher will help you where possible but writing doesn't just do itself, make a start and get on with it.

Easy!