



WRITING COMPETITION

Secondary Learning Resources

Decide on a Topic | Ranking Activity
Deconstructing your Topic | Editing your Checklist

Whitlam Institute
WITHIN WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Deciding on a Topic

page one

What matters to me

Fill in the final grey row of the table with concepts that matter to you and are not already listed.

Note: This activity can be completed in groups or individually.

Family	Love	Happiness	Sadness	Environment
Government	Technology	Global	Country	Friendship
Loneliness	Equity	Peace	Citizenship	Education
Culture	Language	Acceptance	Forgiveness	Creativity
Voice	Inclusivity	Identity	Human Spirit	Democracy
School	Women	Men	Teachers	Students
Local	Equality	Wildlife	Home	Individuality



This activity can be completed in groups or individually.

[illegible]

Ranking Activity

After categorising these concepts, select the 5 concepts that matter most to you. Rank the concepts from most important to least in the table below and then write an explanation about why they matter and why you ranked it in that order.

Rank	Explanation
Concept 01:	
Concept 02:	
Concept 03:	
Concept 04:	
Concept 05:	



Deconstructing Your Topic

page one

Once you have selected a topic begin to break it down so you can better understand its significance. This should include your own ideas and research you complete. You can use any of the graphic organisers below that best suit your purpose.

For and Against organiser

If the purpose of your writing is to persuade or inform, this graphic organiser will enable you to research multiple perspectives which will allow you to form your opinion.

For:

Unsure:

Against:

Other:



Deconstructing Your Topic

page two

Concept Map

Idea 3 and explanation:

Idea 1 and explanation:

What matters to me:

Idea 4 and explanation:

Idea 2 and explanation:



Deconstructing Your Topic

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Writing Scaffold

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graph TD; A["What matters to me:  
My form of writing is:  
I have chosen to write in this form because:"] --> B["This impacts me because:  
My purpose is to:"]; A --> C["Idea 1:"]; A --> D["Idea 2:"]; A --> E["Idea 3:"]; C --> F["Significance of this idea:"]; D --> G["Significance of this idea:"]; E --> H["Significance of this idea:"]; F --> I["Inter-relatedness: This will ensure your overall writing is cohesive.  
How do these ideas relate to each other?"]; G --> I; H --> I; I --> J["Creativity: This will ensure your work shows your voice, originality and creativity.  
How will your selected form allow your writing to show what matters to you in an original way?"]; J --> K["Audience: This will ensure you are true to your purpose and what matters to you.  
What is the significant message you want your audience to discover from your writing?"];
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What matters to me:
My form of writing is:
I have chosen to write in this form because:

This impacts me because:
My purpose is to:

Idea 1:

Idea 2:

Idea 3:

Significance of this idea:

Significance of this idea:

Significance of this idea:

Inter-relatedness: This will ensure your overall writing is cohesive.
How do these ideas relate to each other?

Creativity: This will ensure your work shows your voice, originality and creativity.
How will your selected form allow your writing to show what matters to you in an original way?

Audience: This will ensure you are true to your purpose and what matters to you.
What is the significant message you want your audience to discover from your writing?



Editing Checklist

Check off the aspect you edited after you have completed your writing.

Aspect of your writing to edit

My entry is within the word limit

☐

It is clear to the judges what matters to me

☐

Spelling is correct and accurate

☐

Punctuation:

- Commas
- Full stops
- Proper nouns and the beginning of sentences begin with a capital letter
- Quotation marks (if necessary)
- Apostrophes

☐

Paragraphing:

- I have started a new paragraph when I begin a new idea, argument, or point.
- I have separated my poem into coherent stanzas

☐

Style:

- I have used a wide variety of language devices
- I have used a wide variety of rhetorical devices
- My word choices are original and have impact

☐

I read my work aloud to myself or others to make sure my sentences are the right length.

☐

My examples show a genuine, researched and considered understanding of what matters to me

☐

My approach to the topic or issue is original showing my voice as a writer

☐

I have included references for information that I have researched (if necessary)

☐