Unit 3 English

**Context: Encountering Conflict**

The Outcome Task instructs you to: ‘In an extended and sustained piece of writing of approximately 1000 words, respond to the prompt in either an expository, persuasive or imaginative mode for a specified purpose and audience.’ You must draw upon ideas in the play *Life of Galileo* to support the development of ideas in your piece.

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| Prompt 2: Fear is at the heart of conflict. |
| *Practice Task 2: Expository* |
| *Purpose: to inform, to explain, to discuss, to explore, to provoke thought, etc.* |
| Write a **speech** or a **feature article** in which you explore the idea that fear is a major cause of conflict. |
| Key questions to consider:  - Can a conflict have more than one cause?  - Why is fear often a source of conflict?  - Is the cause of a conflict between nations similar to the cause of a conflict between two individuals? - What role do different values play in the creation of conflict? |

Feature Articles

This type of text:

* aims to provide a thorough explanation of ideas and/or arguments
* appeals to readers’ emotions and imaginations, as well as their sense of reason
* is written with more drama and colour than is permissible in a news report
* includes background information (and sometimes historical information too)
* contains a range of information, including quotes from experts and the anecdotes of people who have first-hand experiences to share
* can range in tone and style from light and entertaining to serious and academic
* differs from opinion articles by covering a range of viewpoints and perspectives
* can employ comparisons and analogies

There are several types of feature article. Two of the most common are:

- **Background**: This type of feature examines a major issue in the news and has the purpose

of giving readers background information on the issue. It is usually written by an expert and sometimes involves their personal experience. Different types of evidence are used and it may involve interviews with several people. It aims to clarify and make sense of complex issues. An example might be an article about the legalisation of gay marriage or euthanasia in Australia.

- **Straight Feature**: An article on a general topic which may include a focus on a particular activity,

place or group of people. It is usually based on topical events. An example

might be an article on the current conflict in Syria (or another major conflict on

a community, national or international scale).

In constructing your feature article, is possible to combine elements of both of these types of articles. You are also strongly encouraged to include aspects of *imaginative writing* too. For example, a feature article may include detailed descriptive passages to give readers a sense of the people or places referred to. Writers will often also include a recount of their own personal experiences which should be brought to life through the use of imagery and other literary techniques. The use of a persona will also require you to use your creativity.

**Structure**

* Your article should contain a catchy headline, appropriate subheading (a sentence that introduces the topic and provides a further ‘hook’ for readers) and by-line (the journalist’s name, e.g. Jane Harris investigates).
* Introduction: Your introductory paragraph needs to grab your readers’ attention. Consider using an anecdote, a famous quote or an interesting/unusual fact.
* Body: Your discussion should be organised into a series of short, well controlled paragraphs. Each paragraph should deal with a particular idea, example or piece of information. The order in which different ideas or perspectives are discussed should be logical and enhance the overall clarity of your piece.
* Conclusion: Your concluding paragraph might offer a final, pithy statement on the topic which captures the key idea you have explored in the article in either your own words or those of another person (in the form of a quote).

**Key Features**

* Uses mostly formal language
* uses creative and colourful language, including imagery and carefully chosen descriptive detail
* uses a combination of first and third person

**Model** For an example of a feature article see your textbook, *Using language to persuade*.

**Voice**

You should use the first person in your feature article. This allows the writer to suggest a directness and familiarity in his/her address and to develop the impression that the reader and writer are engaged in a conversation between friends. See the piece ‘Friendly reminder from life's cluttered contact list’ by Kate Holden (on the weebly) for an example of the use of a strong sense of ‘voice’ in a newspaper article.

Drawing upon ideas in *Life of Galileo*

You can use examples from the play in one or more paragraphs of your feature article to support your discussion of a key idea or concept.

Writing an Expository Speech

The above advice can also be adopted for a speech, with the use of specific language features unique to this particular form, including a greeting, signposting and the repetition.