Unit 1 English

**Context: Future Worlds**

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| *Practice Task 3: Expository Piece* |
| Prompt: Advances in technology are likely to have a detrimental effect on society in the future. |
| Task: Write a **feature article** in which you explore the idea that advances in technology are likely to have a detrimental effect on society in the future. |

Expository Writing

*Expository writing has the following purposes: to inform, to explain, to discuss and to explore. It differs from persuasive writing in that it aims to consider a range of viewpoints and perspectives.*

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
* contains a range of information, including statistics, 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
* 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 use of technology to help parents choose the genetic make-up of their children.

- **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 about a team of scientists who have managed to grow human organs in their laboratory for transplantation.

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.

**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 a famous quote, an interesting/unusual fact or a description of a possible future scenario.
* 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, concise 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*, in the ‘Media Text Types’ section.

**Making links to *Gattaca***

You can use examples from the film in one or more paragraphs of your feature article as evidence in support of your discussion of a key idea.

**Getting started:**

Begin by researching some recent developments in technology that have caused concern or raised objections from people, particularly on moral grounds. Any advances in technology related to the field of genetics and their impact on society would make an appropriate topic.

As part of your research, you may find the following article in *The Guardian* newspaper useful:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2013/apr/21/using-genetics-to-fight-disease>

You may also find the research you did as part of the ‘Internet Research Activity’ last term another useful starting point.

**Homework:**

It is expected that you will begin writing your feature article this week for homework. Please note that it must be handwritten. If you are having any difficulties with the task, please come and see me for help *before Thursday*. (Don’t wait until it’s too late!)

**Due Date:**

It will be due this Friday 3rd May, but you will be given time in Thursday’s class to continue working on it.