

Persuasive text question, part 1

by [C BARRINGTON](#) - 3 Oct 2017 @ 23:56

Hello All

This week we will consider the persuasive text question from the May/June paper to 2015.

If we look at the question, it asks us to:

1. **“Critically analyse the text”** -> This means that you need to investigate and deconstruct the available text, in a logical manner. You need to identify any literary elements and figures of speech which give the text its meaning, explain what each of these elements do (the function), and how this adds to your understanding of the text.

When you are writing a critical essay, there is one thing you need to be aware of at all times:

There is a difference between a **critical** versus a **descriptive piece** of work.

If you think back to your assignments, you may have noticed that often there are comments such as ‘you are not being critical’, that ‘you lack detail’, or that ‘the essay is a rewrite of the text’.

In order to write a critical essay, there will be times that you must be descriptive (often to contextualise your analytical comments). However, such commentary should be kept to a minimum, with the majority of the essay focused on:

- a) Weighing up pieces of information.
- b) Identifying similar or repetitive information.
- c) Show and explain the links between pieces of information.
- d) Explaining how something is of importance (its significance).
- e) Placing information in a specific order to shed light on certain aspects of importance.
- f) Building an argument.
- g) Draws conclusions from the presented information.

Re: Persuasive text question, part 1

by [N KHOZA](#) - 5 Oct 2017 @ 16:25

Good afternoon

There is a speech in our study guide page 28 my problem is how that inaugural address speech persuade people (it is celebration speech)

Re: Persuasive text question, part 1

by [C BARRINGTON](#) - 6 Oct 2017 @ 12:25

Attachments: 

Hmm... See if these links and attachment help with understanding. I'll try to fit in a post just the same :)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zpr49j6/revision/2>

<https://www.slideshare.net/mmcdonald2/persuasive-language-techniques>

Persuasive text question, part 2

by [C BARRINGTON](#) - 8 Oct 2017 @ 13:06

1. In this exam question you are instructed to include an introduction, a body and a conclusion. -> This is something that you should automatically include in ALL essays. Make sure that you also write in paragraphs, leaving at least a line of space between your paragraphs.

2. Again, the question here focuses on the WHAT, WHY, WHO and HOW aspects.

In your introduction (WHAT, WHY and WHO): (again, in every essay, you should include (most/all) this information).

a) Identify the title and author's name.

b) Identify what type of prose text this is.

c) Explain what the text is about in one/two sentences.

a) Explain why the text has been written (remember that in persuasive texts there are very specific reasons for text's existence).

b) Identify who the audience is.

In your body you should:

a) Unpack everything you have stated in the introduction (HOW):

a. How do you know that the text was written for the specific purpose?

b. How do you know it was intended for a particular audience?

- i. For this element, consider where the text was published, and why it was published. In addition to the topic of the text, consider the layout of the text: what is attention grabbing and why is it so?
- c. How do you understand what the text is about?
 - i. Here consider all elements of literature and figures of speech that are applicable to the text. What gives the text its meaning? How does it do so (consider here the significance of the identified element)?

In your conclusion you should:

- a) Consider the most important observations you have made in the body of the essay. Consolidate them into one or a few phrases, and consider if the persuasive text was indeed persuasive, given your analytical breakdown of it. (Remember, that is the point of a persuasive text: To persuade. Part of your critical assessment, is to judge its effectiveness.)