

# Year 6 Greater Depth Writing Mat

## Use different register

The register of a piece of writing shows whether it is formal or informal.

Zippy adjectives, mega hyphen-filled lists, dashes for drama and awesome alliteration might give your piece a low, informal register - awesome!

Conversely, use of the passive voice and high-register vocabulary conveys a more formal tone: each writer must choose the more appropriate form.

## Use dialogue to show character

"Like, dialogue actually can be used to show register too, y'know, and show how people ACTUALLY speak."

"One should cultivate patterns in dialogue which reflect the characters. This process is called characterisation."

## Opposite Noun Phrases

Add a noun phrase in parenthesis next to another noun:

The ship, *a small blue cruiser*, sailed across the tranquil ocean.

## Nominalisation

In formal writing, you can sometimes turn actions and descriptions into nouns. (This is called 'nominalisation').

He ~~arranged~~ the flowers beautifully.

He ~~produced~~ a beautiful *arrangement*.

## Extended metaphors

Fire up your writing with *volcanic* extended metaphors: this technique of continuing the same metaphor will *blaze* a trail through your writing.

## The subjunctive mood

For formal writing, in suggestions, wishes and commands, use the subjunctive mood. "If I was" would change to "If I were"...

*If I were* to use the subjunctive mood, it would be for conditional situations such as wishes.

In the third person, the verb would change to the infinitive form (to run, to jump)

It is important that ~~he be aware~~ of the third person subjunctive mood for formal situations.

It was suggested that ~~he sit~~ still.

## Punctuation

Remember to use dashes, colons and semi-colons to demarcate clauses and hyphens effectively to make your sense clear.

## Characterisation

Characters should have an *intention* (something they want and need) and an *obstacle* or multiple obstacles in their path. Instead of describing a character's surface features, show what they are really like by describing how they overcome their obstacles.

e.g. Jill was a determined girl with blue sparkling eyes and a blue, furry coat. ← No characterisation.

Jill raced through the corridor, eyes scanning the halls for any sign of the missing child, her torn blue coat flapping wildly behind her. ← Because of her actions, we can infer that she is determined and we know why.