

What we already know

- A range of non-fiction forms have been studied throughout KS1 and KS2.

Stage 8 and 9 English: Non-Fiction Writing

What's next

- Use this knowledge to further develop the skills

English Golden Concepts

Reading: Fluency

Reading: Comprehension

Speaking and Listening

Writing Transcription

Writing Composition

What is non-fiction?

Non-fiction is writing that presents fact, real events and true information, intended to inform, explain, explain or persuade.

Examples of non-fiction forms: letters, articles, speeches, reviews, leaflets, blogs.

Letter

Purpose: Formal letters communicate in a structured and respectful way, often for professional or formal requests.

Common Uses: Requesting information, making complaints, applying for a job, staying connected with friends and family.

Content conventions: Formal tone; clear opening statement outlining reason for writing; structured argument/explanation with supporting evidence or points; polite closure with a call to action, if relevant.

Features: Sender's address and date at the top; salutation (e.g. Dear Sir/Madam or a specific name); clear subject or introductory statement explaining purpose; paragraphs; closing statement.

Speeches

Purpose: To persuade, motivate, inspire or inform an audience directly

Common uses: Public addresses, motivational talks, campaign speeches, presentations, or ceremonial addresses to engage or influence listeners.

Content conventions: Clear message and engaging opening; personal connection to the audience; call to action.

Features: Clear opening statement; direct address; rhetorical devices; personal anecdotes or relatable stories; call to action; confident conclusion.

Writing expectations

- Use paragraphs accurately (TiPToP) and vary the length
- Use a range of sentence types and lengths.
- Vary sentence openers
- Select appropriate vocabulary and grammar
- Use a range of literary and rhetorical devices
- Organise points with supporting ideas and arguments
- Use punctuation accurately
- Use a range of punctuation

Reviews

Purpose: To evaluate and inform potential audiences about the quality strengths, and weaknesses of product, service or experience.

Common uses: Reviewing books, movies, products, restaurants, or experiences to guide others' decisions or provide feedback.

Content conventions: Overview (e.g. what it is, background info); critique - balanced or bias; recommendation or star rating.

Features: Brief introduction; descriptive details to give clear idea of product, event or service; evaluation of strengths and weaknesses; examples; personal opinion.

Articles

Purpose: To inform, explain, or provoke thought in the reader.

Common uses: Found in newspapers, magazines, and websites. Aims to educate readers on specific topics, provide insights, or share news and opinions.

Content Conventions: Engaging title and opening line, balanced or opinionated perspective based on purpose, key information on the subject; use facts or anecdotes; conclusion summarising main ideas or suggesting a next step.

Features: Title/headline; introduction; clear structure with paragraphs focusing on different points; quotations or factual information; conclusion.

Rhetorical Devices

- Direct address
- Alliteration
- Anecdote
- Facts
- Opinion
- Rhetorical questions
- Repetition
- Emotive language
- Statistics
- Triple