

## Argument

In Writing Task One, students were asked to write an exposition about the importance of National Parks. They were instructed to support their arguments with appropriate evidence and to write for a particular audience: readers of a magazine for students.

[PDF of Writing Task One Stimulus Material - refer to website]

An exposition requires students to state a position (thesis) with respect to an issue and to argue for or against it. (In this writing task, students were directed to a particular line of argument: that National Parks are important.) Students should present their arguments logically and back them up with appropriate supporting evidence using an impersonal style.

**Thesis: National parks are important**

Preview

Arguments

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Point followed by Elaboration (supporting evidence)

Reiteration (restatement of thesis)

### Language features of an exposition:

- Use of simple, timeless present tense
- Most sequencing is logical rather than temporal
- Uses an impersonal style and appropriate topic and technical language
- Often uses affective language to persuade the reader
- Often includes modal adjuncts and operators (words that qualify) such as *usually, should, could, probably*

The two texts below show how students responded to this task. The first text begins with an effective introduction that poses the question "Why are National Parks important?" and then introduces both aspects of the thesis: they protect and provide. The body of the text contains one sustained argument and some developed arguments that support the thesis that National Parks are important. The writing concludes by summarising the arguments used.

<p>Effective introduction.</p>	<p>Some people may ask "Why are National Parks important?". This may be as these people do not stop to think about what National Parks protect and provide. National Parks protect a large variety of Australia's native flora and fauna as well as Australia's ancient history. They provide unique experiences to people who visit them to appreciate and enjoy.</p>
<p>Sustained argument</p>	<p>They protect the Dreamtime stories of the aboriginals who once lived in the harsh and fiery deserts of the Australian wilderness. These Dreamtime stories can be found on cave walls and rocks in National Parks. Even though the Aboriginals who painted these stories are gone, the stories will live on as long as National Parks protect them.</p>
<p>Developed arguments</p>	<p>National Parks protect and provide. They provide beautiful sights that can only be seen when you go to a National Parks. They also provide many activities that can test your physical and mental strengths and awareness, such as abseiling and canoeing. They also provide fun and entertaining bushwalks that can show you a lot about Australia's flora, fauna and heritage.</p>
<p>Convincing conclusion that summarises the writer's arguments.</p>	<p>So it is clear why National Parks are important. As well as providing us with unique sights and enjoyable and entertaining activities, they also protect our flora, fauna and ancient history and preserve them for future generations.</p>

The second student has identified the thesis that was provided and given simple reasons to support the thesis. There is no conclusion to sum up the arguments used or to convince people to visit a National Park.

Simple introduction	The reason why National Parks are important is because animals and plants live and grow there. The trees help us to breathe better. That's why we need National Parks.
Simple arguments	National Parks protect things like Aboriginal heritage, land and sea, animals and plants. They also provide sightseeing, as well as activities like camping, rock climbing, scuba diving and a lot more. National Parks are there for us to have fun, relax and enjoy.
No conclusion	

Exposition was assessed in Writing Task One - criteria 1, 2, 3, and 4.

## Topic and technical language

To argue effectively and to give a tone of authority to the writing, students needed to use appropriate topic and technical language. Topic language is vocabulary that is appropriate to the task eg *explore, climate, deserts, park rangers*. Technical language is higher level vocabulary that is scientific or has a specific meaning eg *flora, fauna, environment, global warming, artefact, Indigenous, the Dreamtime, World Heritage area*.

<b>Topic language</b>	<p>Some people may ask "Why are National Parks important?". This may be as these people do not stop to think about what National Parks protect and provide. National Parks protect a large variety of Australia's <b>native flora</b> and <b>fauna</b> as well as Australia's <b>ancient</b> history. They provide unique experiences to people who visit them to appreciate and enjoy.</p> <p>They protect the Dreamtime stories of the aboriginals who once lived in the harsh and fiery <b>deserts</b> of the Australian <b>wilderness</b>. These <b>Dreamtime</b> stories can be found on <b>cave walls and rocks</b> in National Parks. Even though the Aboriginals who painted these stories are gone, the stories will live on as long as National Parks protect them.</p> <p>National Parks protect and provide. They provide beautiful sights that can only be seen when you go to a National Parks. They also provide many <b>activities</b> that can test your physical and mental strengths and awareness, such as <b>abseiling</b> and <b>canoeing</b>. They also provide fun and entertaining bushwalks that can show you a lot about Australia's <b>flora, fauna</b> and heritage.</p> <p>So it is clear why National Parks are important. As well as providing us with unique sights and enjoyable and entertaining <b>activities</b>, they also protect our <b>flora, fauna</b> and ancient history and preserve them for future generations.</p>
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Topic and technical language was assessed in Writing Task One - criterion 5.

## Affective language

In order to persuade the reader to accept the validity of their arguments, students needed to use affective language to influence the audience. This could be done using a range of devices:

**Specific opinion adjectives or noun groups:** *brehtaking, exciting, spectacular scenery, unique.*

**Affective verbs:** *appreciate, treasure, destroy, attract.*

**Rhetorical questions:** *What would happen to our flora and fauna if there were no National Parks?*

**High modality:** *we must ensure; it is an absolute must.*

**Hyperbole or emphatic statements:** *So I hope to see YOU at a National Park soon!*

<p>Affective verbs</p> <p>Specific opinion adjectives and noun groups</p>	<p>Some people may ask "Why are National Parks important?". This may be as these people do not stop to think about what National Parks protect and provide. National Parks protect a large variety of Australia's native flora and fauna as well as Australia's ancient history. They provide <b>unique</b> experiences to people who visit them to <b>appreciate and enjoy</b>.</p> <p>They protect the Dreamtime stories of the aboriginals who once lived in the <b>harsh and fiery</b> deserts of the Australian wilderness. These Dreamtime stories can be found on cave walls and rocks in National Parks. Even though the Aboriginals who painted these stories are gone, the stories will live on as long as National Parks protect them.</p> <p>National Parks protect and provide. They provide beautiful <b>sights that can only be seen</b> when you go to a National Parks. They also provide many activities that can test your <b>physical and mental strengths and awareness</b>, such as abseiling and canoeing. They also provide fun and <b>entertaining</b> bushwalks that can show you a lot about Australia's flora, fauna and heritage.</p> <p>So it is clear why National Parks are important. As well as providing us with <b>unique</b> sights and <b>enjoyable</b> and <b>entertaining</b> activities, they also protect our flora, fauna and ancient history and preserve them for future generations.</p>
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Affective language was assessed in Writing Task One – criterion 6.

