

Year 10 English Work – Week 8. Writing to Explain

**Magazine Articles – Writing to Explain**

Statues have been in the media a lot recently. In particular, the monument dedicated to Edward Colston in Bristol has featured prominently as Black Lives Matter protestors removed the statue from its plinth and threw it into the harbour because of Colston's involvement in the slave trade.

**What are statues and why do many places have them?**  
 Can you think of any statues locally? What do you think about them? Why?  
 Are statues relevant to you as an individual? Why? Why not? Try to provide specific examples.



**Statues are symbols of respect and gratitude**

They are put up within communities as a sign of respect, usually from the people who live there. However, many statues were raised hundreds of years ago for people that no longer have any relevance or connection to the people that live in that place, or are linked to actions and ideas that we no longer accept within our society.

Edward Colston's statue in Bristol is a good example of the latter. Colston made much of his money through the slave trade, making money from the mistreatment and misery of others against their will. Whilst Colston was a noted philanthropist (someone who gave money away to charities), it is also believed he withheld money from people who disagreed with his actions.



**Are statues valuable in our modern society?**



Statues are valuable in our society because...	Statues are not valuable in our society because...
They honour historical figures who have helped shape our world.	Over time the figures represented become less and less relevant to the people that live around them.

Today we're going to focus on writing to explain. In order to do this, we need to think about the many different perspectives that exist around statues.

Complete a table that includes different reasons for why statues DO and DO NOT serve purposes in our society.

**We'll look at an example of a writing to explain article about this topic**

- 1) Highlight or circle the **key facts** that the writer has included.
- 2) Highlight or underline the **opinions and perspectives** the writer has included.

**Extra Challenge:**  
 How would you describe the **tone** of this article? How is it different to a **writing to argue** piece?

**Mega Challenge:**  
 Is this article **biased** (supporting one viewpoint over others) or is it **balanced and neutral**? Provide examples to support your interpretation.



(The article for this is on the next page!)

" \_\_\_\_\_ "

Write a magazine article to explain your point of view on this topic.

<p><b>Connectives:</b></p> <p>Initially, to begin, first, firstly</p> <p>Moreover, Furthermore, In addition, Additionally</p> <p>However, despite this, in contrast, on the other hand</p> <p>Overall, In conclusion, To conclude...</p>	<p><b>Success criteria:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Clear introduction setting out your ideas;</li> <li>2) Clear structure;</li> <li>3) Use of connectives to link ideas together;</li> <li>4) Conclusion that sums up ideas;</li> <li>5) Balanced tone that explains ideas in detail.</li> </ol>
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**Now write the rest of your article**

Now write your own magazine article in which you **explain** your point of view on a topic of your choice.

Try to make it a balanced and non-biased piece of writing by showing all sides of the argument.

Aim for at least 3 paragraphs as well as an introduction and conclusion.

Good luck! I look forward to

reading your article. Mrs Brindle x

“Statues are no longer valuable in our society.”

**Write a magazine article to explain your point of view on this topic.**

Have you seen the photos or videos of the large, metal statue being thrown into a river by large groups of protesters? Almost certainly, the footage has been everywhere in the media for the past few weeks. The removal of Edward Colston’s statue in Bristol has caused a nationwide debate about the significance and importance of statues and monuments, a debate that seems to be only just warming up.

In all likelihood you have walked past colossal representations of individuals through the towns and cities that you like and work in everyday, very often paying no attention to them or their meaning. However, the actions of the Black Lives Matter protestors in Bristol may have got you thinking about what these statues mean. Generally, we erect sculptures as a sign of respect and honour to the people they represent.

In Liverpool, for instance, a huge statue of The Beatles – one of the most famous bands in the world – was raised in 2015 to celebrate the achievements of the group and their meaning to the people of the city. In Sheffield, the ‘Women of Steel’ monument was put up in 2016 as a sign of gratitude for the efforts of the city’s female steel workers during the two World Wars. Monuments like this serve to remind us of our achievements and our heroes.

Yet not all statues are welcomed by their local communities. Sculptures of slave traders or proponents of the slave trade, such as Robert Milligan, Sir Francis Drake and even Admiral Horatio Nelson are being focussed on in media narratives now. For some these statues are problematic because these figures profited from the misery, suffering, and forced labour of millions of people across history. Whilst Robert Milligan’s statue has now been removed from its location on the Isle of Dogs, the statues of Drake and Nelson are causing heated debate.

Drake is well-known in Tavistock, the place of his birth. His accomplishments as an explorer and as a sea captain made him a local hero and school children in the community still learn about him. His statue was raised in the early 1800s as a sign of gratitude and respect for his achievements. However, he traded slaves and made money from the suffering of others. Should his statue still stand with this in mind?

As well as this, Nelson’s Column in the centre of London is one of the most iconic parts of the city. Millions upon millions of tourists flock to Trafalgar Square each year to visit the site. Despite leading Britain to a famous naval victory at the Battle of Trafalgar, Nelson was believed to be against the abolition of the slave trade. Whilst the likes of the removal of the statues of Milligan and Colston might be generally supported by the public, this is not necessarily the case for those of Drake and Nelson.

Although statues can serve to bring communities closer together and remind them of their greatest achievements or to celebrate their heroes, as time goes on it is possible that circumstances change, and society does as well. Together as a society we have questions we must ask each other about what purposes statues serve: should they act as reminders of our past, both positive and negative, or should we constantly be reflecting on who we are as people and whether we need to alter our landscape as we move forward into the future.