

Sample response 3: Writing about play

This sample response is in the form of a podcast script that explains various aspects of play.

Task

Drawing on the writing you have drafted, explored and completed over this unit of work, create a written text that explicitly incorporates the following stimulus:

‘All sorts of skills grow through play: social perception, empathy, creativity, flexibility, belly laughter, humility, sense of humour, initiative, moving on from mistakes, listening, honesty, inclusiveness, problem-solving. Sociodramatic play offers a channel for increasing self-discovery and vitality.’

– Darcia F Narvaez, ‘How to play as an adult’

You can determine the purpose, audience and context of the written text.

Response

Introduction

[Background music fades in] Welcome to the podcast that explores the many facets of human experience, from creativity to childhood memories to the reasons why we play. I’m your host, and today we’re going to dive deep into the world of play, and why it’s such an essential part of being human. *[Music fades out]*

Uses the typical conventions of podcasts, including segments, music and sound effects.

Segment one

What do you remember about playtime as a kid? Was it structured or unstructured? Did you have set games to play or did you make it up as you went along? One of the best things about play is the freedom it gives us to explore and experiment. When we play, we’re not bound by the same rules that govern our daily lives.

Keeps the idea of play at the centre of the text.

[Sound effect of children playing in the background]

In fact, studies have shown that play is not just fun, but critical for our overall health and wellbeing. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, playtime can help children develop cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills. But play is not just important for children, adults can benefit from it as well. It can help reduce stress, boost creativity, and even improve our problem-solving skills.

[Sound effect of someone laughing and having fun]

Play can come in many forms. It can be as simple as taking a walk in nature, playing a board game with friends or trying out a new hobby. And the best part? It doesn’t have to be structured or planned. Play is all about being spontaneous and embracing the moment.





But why is play so important for human development? The answer lies in how we learn. Children learn through play because it's a natural and enjoyable way for them to explore and make sense of the world around them. As adults, we often forget the importance of play in our lives, but it's never too late to rediscover it.

[Sound effect of someone trying something new]

So, the next time you find yourself feeling stressed or stuck in a rut, try incorporating some play into your day. It might just be the thing you need to boost your mood and increase your overall sense of wellbeing. *[Music fades in]*

Segment two

Play isn't just important for our individual wellbeing, it also has social benefits. When we play with others, we learn important skills like communication, teamwork and empathy. And while competition can sometimes lead to negative behaviours such as aggression or boasting, it's important to remember that play can also be a space for mutual curiosity and tenderness.

[Sound effect of people laughing and having fun together]

Think about the last time you played a game or sport with friends. Chances are, you were able to build connections and strengthen relationships in the process. Play can help break down barriers and bring people together. *[Music fades out]*

And it's not just in our personal lives that play can make a difference. Many companies are now incorporating play into their workplaces, recognising the positive impact it can have on employee morale, creativity and productivity.

[Sound effect of a busy office]

So, whether you're playing a game of table tennis in the break room or taking part in a team-building exercise, play can be a powerful tool for creating a positive work environment. *[Music fades in]*

Segment three

But what about those who struggle with the idea of play? For some, the idea of being spontaneous can be daunting. But it's important to remember that play doesn't have to be perfect or structured. It's all about giving yourself permission to let go and have fun.

[Sound effect of someone taking a deep breath and relaxing]

And while it's natural to feel self-conscious or silly at first, remember that everyone starts somewhere. The more you practise and embrace play in your life, the more comfortable and natural it will become. *[Music fades out]*

Draws subtly from the mentor text 'About the Boys' by Tim Winton.

The idea of letting go / having fun is influenced by the monologue from *Cyrano* (another mentor text).

Conclusion

In conclusion, play is a vital part of our lives. It's essential for healthy human development; it can help us build connections with others; and it's a powerful tool for boosting creativity and productivity. So, don't be afraid to let your playful side shine through. Whether you're a child or an adult, play has something to offer everyone.

[Music fades in]

That's it for today's episode of the podcast. We hope you enjoyed learning about the many benefits of play. Don't forget to subscribe and leave us a review if you liked what you heard.

Reflective commentary

I was excited to explore the various ways in which play impacts our lives. My audience for this podcast is broad, encompassing anyone who is interested in the topic of play and its importance in our lives. The stimulus quote gave me some key concepts to work with and expand on, including empathy, creativity and problem solving.

To begin my research, I turned to some mentor texts including an excerpt from a speech by Tim Winton titled 'About the Boys', as well as his novel *The Shepherd's Hut*. These texts provided me with a wealth of information on the topic of play, including its social and emotional benefits, and how it can be used as a tool for personal growth and development.

I drew on the techniques and language features used in these mentor texts in writing my podcast script. For example, I used some of the storytelling techniques employed by Winton in *The Shepherd's Hut* to engage my audience and keep them interested. I also incorporated the playful and humorous tone of Chelsea Roffey's 'An Open Letter to Doubting Thomas' to create a more relaxed and enjoyable listening experience.

In terms of form, I chose to create a podcast with three distinct segments. The first segment focuses on the benefits of play for healthy human development, drawing on research findings to support my arguments. In the second segment, I explore the social benefits of play, drawing on personal anecdotes and stories to illustrate my points. Finally, in the third segment, I address the challenges that some people face when it comes to incorporating play into their lives, and provide practical tips for overcoming these obstacles.

As I was writing the podcast script, I made use of various conventions of the podcast form, including the division into segments as well as sound effects and music to enhance the listening experience. For example, I used the sound of children playing in the background during the first segment to create a more immersive experience for my listeners. The sound of laughter also enabled me to incorporate the concepts of 'belly laughter' and 'sense of humour' from the stimulus quote.

Explains how the stimulus material was incorporated into the response.

Uses this paragraph and the next to reflect on the use of mentor texts, referring to specific elements and the purpose for using them. Some elements are ideas-related, while others relate to tone and style.

Reflects on the use of structure.

Discusses the use of conventions of the podcast form.





Reflecting on my writing process, I am proud of the ways in which I incorporated techniques and ideas from the mentor texts, as well as the stimulus quote, into my podcast. However, I also recognise that there is always room for improvement. In future writing, I will aim to be more intentional in my use of language features and storytelling techniques, with a view to creating an even more engaging experience for my audience.

Overall, the process of creating this podcast has been an enlightening experience. It has taught me the value of becoming familiar with mentor texts and incorporating into my own writing the elements that I find effective. I also came to appreciate the importance of being intentional in my use of language and storytelling techniques. I hope that my podcast has been informative and engaging for my audience, and that it has inspired them to incorporate more play into their lives.