English Language A Level – Summer Project

Introduction:

Throughout your A Level English course, you will be studying the following topics, which frequently appear in the news:

1. **Language and Gender** – how men and women use language differently (if at all) and how men and women are represented in different texts
2. **World English** – how language differs around the world as a result of the influence of British English
3. **Language and Occupation/Power** – how a person's occupation and status affects their language use
4. **Language and Social Class** – how an individual's position in society affects the way they speak
5. **Language Change** – how language has changed over time (including the use of technology such as online forums, social media and text messaging)
6. **Language Acquisition** – how children learn to speak, read and write
7. **Accents and Dialects** – how where you are from can affect the way you speak

Your Task:

1. Create a glossary of key terminology based on the list of words below. In your glossary you must include a definition and an example.

Key Term	Definition	Example
Compound sentence		
Abstract Noun		
Hypophora		
Imperative		
Declarative		
Rhetorical Question		
Anaphora		
Dynamic Verb		
Direct Address		
Pun		
Satire		
Byline		
Superlative Adjective		
Modal Verb		
Exclamation		
Rhetoric		
Pronoun		
Comparative Adjective		
Allusion		
Litotes		

2. What are the main conventions of an article? Write a brief definition or list of what you would expect to find in an article.
3. What is a tabloid newspaper? What is a broadsheet newspaper?
4. List 3 main differences between a tabloid and a broadsheet newspaper.
5. Write a response to the following statement (must be at least half an A4 page):
   'The news is constantly changing and before long print news will be a thing of the past'
   To what extent do you agree with this statement?

   Try to include examples to support your argument, this could be of current news affairs, examples of digital media and statistics of readerships.

6. Between now and your first lesson in September, you need to research to find at least 3 articles that are based on the topics in the Introduction section, ideally from a range of sources to give you a broader perspective. These sources could include BBC News, The Daily Mail, The Guardian, Huffington Post and any other newspaper publication either in print or online.

With each article you want to explore what is it suggesting about the language topic (e.g. Language and Gender) and you could use the following bullet points to support your analysis:

a) You could stick this onto a double page spread and annotate
b) Summarise in a paragraph what you learn about language from the text
c) Explains your own response to the topic and your own views
d) Identify linguistic features in the articles (such as those identified in your glossary)

Extension – create your own article (s) based on one of the topics you will be studying and use an article you have found as a style model to support your writing.

Example Articles:



'Southern' accents replacing dialects, language app finds

26 May 2016 | Cambridgeshire

Share

Doctor slang is a dying art

The inventive language created by doctors the world over to insult their patients - or each other - is in danger of becoming extinct.

So says a doctor who has spent four years charting more than 200 colourful examples.

Is doctor slang on the wane?

Medicine is a profession already overflowing with acronyms and technical terms, and doctors over the years have invented plenty of their own.

However, Dr Adam Fox, who works at St Mary's Hospital in London as a specialist registrar in its child allergy unit, says that far fewer doctors now annotate notes with abbreviations designed to spell out the unsayable truth about their patients.

Does your accent really hinder your job prospects?

More than a quarter of British people feel discriminated against because of the way they speak. But will it really harm your career? **Matt Dathan** explores

Bristolians auditioning for roles in the new Star Wars film were warned to "disguise their accents" by David Prowse, who played Darth Vader in the original movies. Photograph: Cine Text/Allstar/Sportsphoto Ltd./Allstar