

VIBE ACTIVITIES

Helping Out – *Inspiring Words* page 23

GOOD WRITING COMES FROM FINDING THE PERSON WITHIN AND SHARING THAT WITH YOUR READER. THAT'S THE OPINION OF TOMORROWGIRL SHORT-STORY COMPETITION JUDGE DANIKA NAYNA.

Tomorrowgirl is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high-school girls in remote Indigenous communities. The competition is aimed at encouraging young girls to share their skills, dreams, visions and goals, and to identify the hidden talent in communities.

"We get stories from rural communities all the time, but they are generally negative. Through this competition, we want to share the good-news stories because it's not often you get to hear the voice of young Indigenous women," Danika says.

Danika has been a journalist with Indigenous Newslines Magazine and Radio, is currently working as a community manager for social media campaigns, and is one of three judges for the competition which is open from now until 3 May. The winning writer will receive a writer's support package, including a laptop computer, vouchers to buy books and membership to a writers' association. The winning entry will also be included in a published anthology of selected entries.

Prestigious Australian publisher Harper Collins will publish the anthology and copies of the book will be available to contestants and the communities they live in.

"I'm one of three judges, including acclaimed author Sue Woolfe and Damian Amamoo, CEO of an Indigenous communications company, Inception Strategies. I feel very privileged to be on the panel. It's a great opportunity to read and assess the writing. I don't feel I've achieved everything in my career, so I'm privileged to be on the panel," Danika says.

Danika began her career in journalism after completing a Bachelor of Communications and then a cadetship with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). She then went on to work as a journalist for a streetpress publication in Canberra before joining Indigenous Newslines radio and magazine.

"I used to travel to remote communities when I worked for Newslines and I found they had so much to offer. You would find the person within the story and see that coming out. I would help them tell their stories and that was so amazing to be a conduit for their voice. It was a rare opportunity," she says.

"I used to travel to remote communities when I worked for Newslines and I found they had so much to offer. You would find the person within the story and see that coming out."

Danika has been writing since she was a young girl and kept a diary from Year 5 to Year 10.

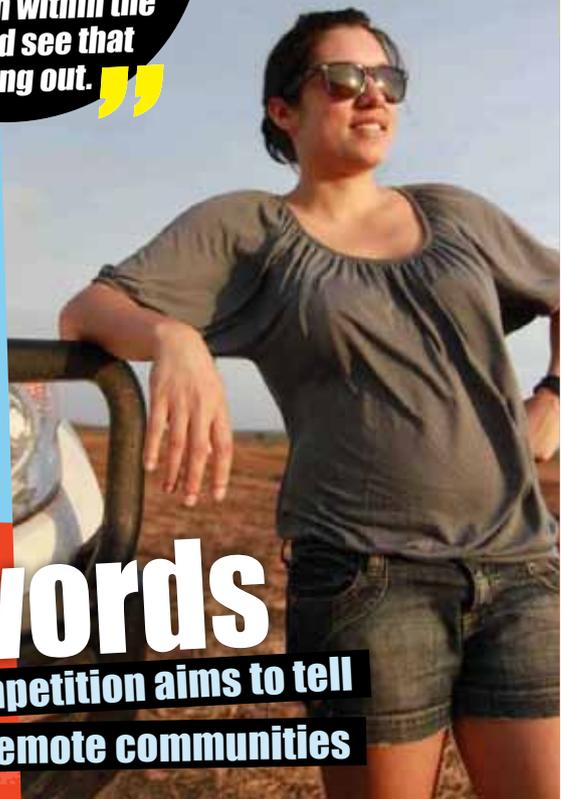
"I've always written and the diary was very therapeutic. As a journalist, you don't realise how many avenues you can take your career down. I'm now doing social media and learning how to get the message across in minimal words," she says.

3 tips for writers

- The key to good writing is to write down everything that comes to your mind. "You can always delete it later," Danika says.
- Another good tip is to complete your writing and then come back to it later. "You can read it later and pick up any spelling mistakes and make sure it's what you want to say."
- Don't be afraid to express who you are. "Inject your personality into the story. Readers will appreciate it," Danika says.

Entry to the *Tomorrowgirl* competition is free and should be submitted via email to tomorrowgirlaustralia@gmail.com, along with some contact and community details. For more information on the competition, head to www.tomorrowgirl.com.au

JOURNALIST DANIKA NAYNA WILL HELP JUDGE THE 'TOMORROWGIRL' WRITING COMPETITION.



HELPING OUT

Inspiring words

'Tomorrowgirl' writing competition aims to tell the stories from remote communities

Tomorrowgirl is aimed at encouraging young girls to share their skills, dreams and goals through a writing competition.

One of the competition judges is **Danika Nayna**, who has been a journalist with **Indigenous Newslines Magazine** and radio.

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Danika Nayna

ACTIVITY 1

BUILDING READING SKILLS

- skimming and scanning for information.
- reading headings, text boxes and pictures.
- reading for meaning.
- making connections between the text and your world.

There are three levels of comprehension questions:

- Literal** The answer is located in one sentence in the text.
- Inferred** You need to make links between sentences and graphics (such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.
- Applied** The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.

1 The picture with this text shows us

(literal)

- how difficult it can be to be a good writer.
- Danika Nayna in a remote area.
- the city life.
- how to be a good writer.



2 Which of these is **not true?**

(inferred)

- Danika kept a diary from Year 5 to Year 10.
- Tomorrowgirl* is open to ATSI girls in high school in remote areas.
- Danika has never travelled to remote communities.
- Entry to the *Tomorrowgirl* competition is free.



3 What is the relationship between the photo and the main text?

(inferred)



4 List Danika's three writing tips in your own words.

(inferred)

5 One of the judges is "*acclaimed*" author Sue Woolfe. In this sentence, what does "*acclaimed*" mean?

(inferred)

- She claims to be a writer.
- She is not very well known.
- She only writes part-time.
- She is a well known and respected writer.



6 What is the overall purpose for writing this text?

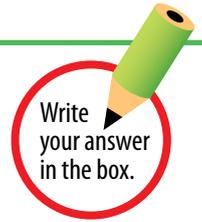
(applied)



ACTIVITY 2

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – SPELLING

- 1** The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined. Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.



Good wrieing should be shared with others.

It is for girls in remote communitys.

He is currantly a manager.

- 2** Each sentence has one word that is incorrect. Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

The wining writer will get great prizes.

She has acheived a lot.

She has been writing since she was very yung.

Spelling – Homonyms / Homophones

Homonyms / homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and different meanings.

For example, people often confuse **there**, **they're** and **their**.

A simple way to remember these:

there = place or idea

they're = contraction for they are

their = belongs to them

- 3** Circle the correct word in the following sentences.

- A. (There / They're / Their) going to enter the competition today.
 B. The story was (there / they're / their) favourite.
 C. I'm sure my book was (there / they're / their) on the desk.

ACTIVITY 3

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – GRAMMAR

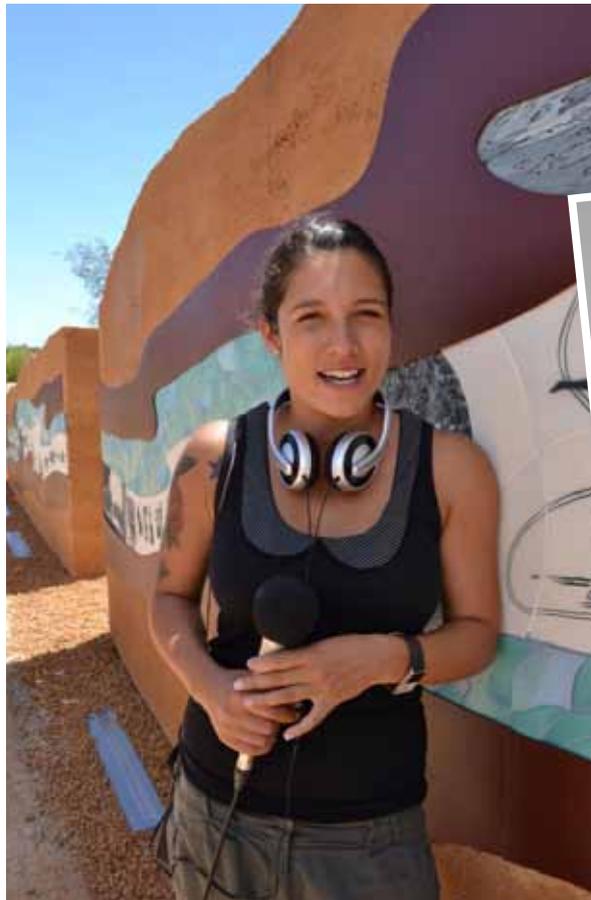
Conjunctions are joining words that are used to keep a text together.

And and **but** are called **co-ordinate conjunctions**. They join two independent clauses to make a compound sentence, for example: I like cats **and** I like dogs; I ran fast **but** I did not win the race.

Subordinate conjunctions are used to join independent clauses to make a complex sentence as in I swam everyday **when** I was on holidays; They ate the fruit **because** it was ripe.

1 Complete these sentences using co-ordinate conjunctions **and** or **but**.

- The ship was long _____ heavy.
- We saw many things _____ we did not see the captain's cabin.
- There are two anchors _____ each one weighs 30 tonnes.
- There were 5000 sailors _____ 10 planes aboard the carrier.



ACTIVITY 5

WRITING AN EXPOSITION



1 TOPIC – Everyone should learn to play a sport.



An Exposition is a type of argument that states one point of view about an issue. (A Discussion argues **both** sides of an issue.) Here's how an Exposition is structured.

Argument type	Social purpose	Stages	Phases
Exposition	argues one point of view about an issue	<p>Thesis – statement of your point of view (Introduction)</p> <p>Arguments – points (Your opinions)</p> <p>Restatement (Conclusion)</p>	<p>preview all the points</p> <p>evidence statistics quotes examples elaborations</p> <p>review all the points and sum up</p>



**Do you agree? Do you disagree?
Brainstorm your ideas for and against.**



Reasons that everyone should learn to play a sport.	Reasons against everyone learning to play a sport.

Which is the strongest argument?

Write an EXPOSITION to convince a reader of your opinion.

Think about:

- examples, statistics, elaborations and other evidence to support your ideas.

Remember to:

- research your topic and plan your writing.
- choose your arguments carefully.
- start with an attention-grabbing introduction.
- state your arguments clearly.
- give reasons and examples for your arguments.
- write in sentences.
- use words that connect your ideas (firstly, next, in addition to, in conclusion...).
- use a new paragraph for each new idea.
- choose your words carefully to convince a reader of your opinions.
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation.
- check and edit your writing so that it is clear for a reader.