

Writing: Inspiring people topic

Session 6: LO: Writing in a formal tone.

Punctuation and grammar warm up:

In a biography we need to talk (write) in a more formal tone. This means less chatty and more like the presenters on the news. Look at this short video which shows you the difference between formal and informal 'tone'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdDBY2-Wmis>

Success criteria for formal writing:

Sounds like someone speaking formally- like a presenter on the evening news, or Mr Berrisford introducing assembly.

Longer sentences with conjunctions to join clauses.

Full words- not contractions i.e. do not instead of don't.

No abbreviations (i.e. MacDonald's not Maccy D's).

Serious points supported with evidence or information.



Can you change my informal paragraph below into a more formal sounding text?

I have highlighted (in yellow) the parts you should think about changing into more formal language.

Mr Tom Moore was born **somewhere** called Keighley in West Yorkshire. He was born on April the 30th in 1920. His **daddy** was a **brickie** and his **mummy** was a teacher at a **kids** school. When he was 10 his family were **skint** because of a worldwide financial crash. **Loads of kids** like Tom were **poorly** because they ate rubbish **grub** and their houses were **mucky** and **gross**.

At school he **found** out that he **loved** **messing about with lumps of wood, hammers and saws** more than reading books.

When he was an older **kid**, he **got** a motor**bike**. It was in a barn and he **gave** half a crown for it. He **loved** that **bike** and **fixed it up all fancy**.

To think about: Read you writing out loud in your best 'news' presenter voice. Maybe you could record yourself or film yourself as if you are reporting a documentary. Does your writing sound formal? How do you know? Check your writing against the formal language success criteria.

