EdRugby Online Educational Resource

LESSON: Rugby writing

LEVEL
Upper primary
Lower secondary

THEME: Rugby media

DESCRIPTION:

Students are introduced to the form and purpose of a range of text types. They deconstruct existing texts and develop a personal recount.

OUTCOMES

English

- With teacher guidance, identifies and discusses how linguistic structures and features work to shape readers' and viewers' understanding of texts.
- Identifies and discusses some of the relationships between ideas, information and events in visual texts designed for general viewing.

SUGGESTED TIME:

50 minutes

WHAT YOU NEED:

- class copies of student handouts (at the end of this lesson plan)
- highlighters or coloured pencils

RUGBY MEDIA

australian RUGBY

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

a. Explain that students are going to focus on writing about the sport of Rugby. They will examine some examples of Rugby writing written by other students and then commence their own writing for a Rugby Writing Competition (see EdRugby competitions).

b. Ask students about the types of Rugby or sports writing they read. Brainstorm the different types of texts associated with sports writing.

c. Discuss the purpose of each of these types of texts. Explain that in this lesson, they are going to concentrate on writing recounts of a match, articles about Rugby players, teams, their supporters and/or the game in general.

PART 2 MATCH REPORTS AND RECOUNTS

a. Distribute the Student handouts – Match report of recount 1 and 2. Ask students to read the articles *True Colours Shine in Tassie* and *World Cup Heats up in Melbourne*.

b. Direct students' attention to the match report, *World Cup Heats up in Melbourne*. Discuss the structure and the language features of this form of Rugby writing. Ask students to analyse some of the language features of the last four paragraphs of the text, underlining or highlighting examples of:

- jargon
- colourful language
- the actions of individual players
- references to the scores or to the competition.

RUGBY MEDIA

c. Direct students' attention to *True colours shine in Tassie*. Discuss any language features that make this match report similar to and different from *World Cup Heats up in Melbourne*. Students might mention references to the film, *Remember the Titans*. Ask why the writer has included it, if it is used to attract the reader's attention, and what features give the recount of the development of a Rugby team a realistic feel. They could mention:

- comments from players and coach
- jargon and colourful language
- information about the match
- references to the score
- the responses of the spectators and the community.

d. Ask students how we know sport in general, and Rugby in particular, are important to the writer – how the writer relates the team's development to her community, Tasmania and to the World Cup. Ask students to underline or highlight the language features and write comments or explanations on the page linked to the text with arrows.

e. Ask students which text, 1 or 2, is most like a sports report in the newspapers. Students give reasons for their opinions.

PART 3 THE SPIRIT OF RUGBY

a. Distribute Student handouts – The spirit of Rugby 1 and 2. Ask students to read the texts *Rugby – not just another football game* and *Future hero of tomorrow, today*.

b. Discuss what the texts are about and how they are similar to or different from the first two texts. Students might mention:

- *Rugby- not just another football game* focuses on the game of Rugby and the effect it has on the community of Tamworth. This is a similar theme to *True Colours Shine in Tassie.* It is different, however, in that it doesn't discuss a particular match, team or player, but talks about the game in general.
- *Future hero of tomorrow, today* focuses on a player, Kieran McNamara, and his team, the Euberta Echidnas. It also focuses on the effects the game of Rugby has on the team and the community.

c. Ask students what relationship the writer Brienne McNamara has with the player, Kieran and what affect this might have on her recount.

d. Discuss which of the four texts students find the most interesting or best captures the spirit of the game. Students give reasons for their answers. Explain that the texts were entered in an EdRugby writing competition held at the time of the Rugby World Cup in 2003.

PART 4 WRITING A SPORTS RECOUNT

a. Discuss with students the features that helped to bring the four texts to life.

b. Ask students to write their own sports recount or article. They can write about their team, a game or a player. Other themes or issues they might mention include:

- The World Cup
- Rugby in their community
- Rugby at their school
- International Rugby
- Rugby - a game for everyone
- A favourite Rugby team or player
- A state, national or international competition.

PART 5 REFLECTION

Reflect on the game of Rugby and how a creative activity such as writing is able to capture aspects such as team spirit. Discuss the range of text types introduced in the lesson, encouraging students to attempt their own creative writing.

RUGBY MEDIA

PART 6 EXTENSION

- Distribute the literacy activity at the end of this lesson.
- Use the Internet to explore other forms of Rugby writing.
- Compile students' writing samples into a book.
- Organise for students to read their creative writing to the class or other students in the school.
- Examine articles in a range of magazines and newspapers.
- Describe your experiences in other areas of life by writing a short recount of a memorable experience.

Explore www.rugby.com.au/edrugby (select 'ONLINE RESOURCE') for a student interactive activity related to this lesson.

RUGBY MEDIA

RUGBY MEDIA

STUDENT HANDOUT MATCH REPORT OF RECOUNT 1

Read the match report carefully then highlight or underline the words or phrases in the last four paragraphs that are examples of jargon, colourful language, the actions of individual players and references to the scores or to the competition.

Headline directs our attention to the Competition and the venue.

The 'who', 'what', 'when' and 'where' of the match are given.

Rugby and sporting jargon is used eg 'kick off'

Excitement is generated by the language and references to the scores eg '10 point lead'.

The names of star players eg Jonny Wilkinson, are mentioned. The match is reported in the sequence it was played.

World Cup Heats up in Melbourne

By Tim McNamara and Eric Fransella
October 27, 2003

On Sunday night Melbourne played host to the game of the World Cup thus far, when 50,000 fans packed into the Telstra Dome to witness the courageous Samoans deliver England an alarming wake up call.

Pre–game the entire crowd stood and listened to the national anthems of both teams, before being treated to a spectacular rendition of the Samoan haka.

With the impending kick off, the crowd came to life, the noise so deafening down on the ground that I could barely hear myself speak.

In continuing with the intimidating aura of the haka, the Samoans jumped out of the box, taking an unexpected early 10 point lead, much to the joy of the jubilant Samoan supporters.

The stunned English supporters must have thought they were experiencing a bad dream as the Samoans continued to run rampant, even the unflappable perfectionist Jonny Wilkinson missing a penalty 45 meters out- his first miss of the tournament, followed by missing a gimme 25 meters out, right in front. Wilkinson's misses sent the English fans into disbelief, and sent the Samoans into half time with the lead.

As the second half got under way, the entire English contingent in the crowd spontaneously joined as one in singing 'swing low, sweet chariot', spurring on their chargers, and electrifying the atmosphere.

The English bunkered down and forced their way into the lead, the match sealing try by Phil Vickery sparking deafening celebrations by the English players and supporters alike. Both knew they had only just barely gotten away with this one.

Post match players of both sides embraced each other, and in a grand display of sportsmanship, the English clapped the gallant Samoans off the field. The Samoans reciprocated, before taking part in a lap of honour in thanks to the supporting crowd, who were in turn grateful for having witnessed such an exciting match of Rugby.

This match signalled the real start of the World Cup, and with the cricket scores hopefully gone, it only gets better from here.

The names of the writers and the date are included.

Colourful language is used eg 'alarming wake-up call'.

Colour and authenticity is given to the report by giving details of the anthems, the haka and the crowds in the pre - match period.

Alliteration, 'run rampant', and jargon is used eg 'a penalty 45 meters out', 'a gimme 25 meters out, right in front'. and 'half time'. It makes the report colourful and exciting.

RUGBY MEDIA

True colours shine in Tassie

By Renee Hjort and Nicole Koerner

The movie "Remember the Titans"*, has bought a lot of inspiration to many people, both young and old, black and white. So much so that people everywhere have put their differences aside, whether it is race, religion or some other reason and tried to be civil towards one another.

The concept of the movie and the ever approaching Rugby World Cup, inspired students from Exeter High School, in Tasmania, to learn how to play Rugby Union and all the variations of the game.

The grade 10 girls took this quite seriously compared to the rest of the school. "The 9/10 boys have their weekly football games, so we all thought that it was our turn to show them what we're made of," says a very determined Sarah Eastburn, "And we showed them alright."

As the girls were so excited about Rugby, they wanted to see which class was better.

"What could I say?" sports teacher and coach, Kath Smalldon states, "They begged and pleaded to play each other."

On Friday the 8th of August, the two sports classes went head to head in a grudge match. It was held at lunchtime on the school oval. They had a record, sell out crowd. The whole school came and watched. The girls had tonnes of support.

"The game was great. I had so much fun tackling the other girls. I want to play again," said a tired looking Felicity Shaw. Old School ended up beating The Under Dogs.

Kath Smalldon had planned a surprise for the girls, they were to play arch rivals, Riverside, in a school vs school grudge match. It was held on Friday the 22nd of August. All the girls went along. Although most were unable to play as a terrible illness had struck nearly half the team. The match was played at Riverside and was the dirtiest and hardest match you had ever seen. The girls were going at it like a pack of wolves.

In the first five minutes star fly half, Laura Williams received an elbow to the nose and had to come off for treatment. It turned out to be broken but she got back in there and never gave up.

"I thought there was going to be an all in brawl at one stage," says Kath with a hint of fright in her voice. Exeter ended up beating Riverside 12-8. The next grudge match is going to be against Georgetown at a later date.

It's not just the students at Exeter High who are getting into the spirit of things in Tasmania. It's the whole state. Everyone, everywhere is getting Rugby fever with the match between Romania and Namibia closing in fast. Southern Cross TV Station have even made it easy for Tasmanians to choose who to go for with the Odds or Evens game. If your birthday falls on an even number, you go for Namibia and if your born on an odd day you go for Romania.

Tasmanians thrive on anything to do with teams. This is shown with the tremendous support that they have given the AFL clubs when they play at York Park. York Park is forever being developed. New stands have been built, more seating put in, old stands have been renovated, lights have been put up and so on and all of this is being done to show Australia just how good Tasmania really is. Tasmania is shoved aside so often that it is about time it received some world class recognition. This is our chance and Tasmanians are grabbing hold of it with two hands and not letting go.

So it's not just Exeter High students getting ready for the Rugby, it's the whole state. It just goes to show, we're not all like Reggie.

* a film about American football. It is the true story of an newly appointed African-American coach (Denzil Washington) and his high school team on their first season as a racially integrated unit.

RUGBY MEDIA

RUGBY- NOT JUST ANOTHER FOOTBALL GAME

Despite what many may think, Rugby union is much more than a game, much more than people passing and kicking a ball from one end of a paddock to another, much more than tackling and scrums and mauls. As we have discovered, Rugby union is more than a sport, but rather a way of life. And, not only does this affect the players, but the family, the supporters and the entire community.

Written by Judith Greenland

Rugby union has been a part of the Tamworth community since 1925. From small beginnings to grand finals to Wallaby greats, Rugby has a proud tradition.

The games we see played each weekend show the true colours of Tamworth and surrounding districts through the enthusiasm, passion and pride shown both on and off the field. Rugby teaches the values of life - you don't have to be the biggest and the strongest to achieve. Rugby shows that there are positions for everyone, no matter what qualities possessed.

You have your agile, quick footed, fast thinking fullback - similar to a doctor working the late night shift in emergency. Then there is your go- forward, the tough, hard, never say die front-rower - whom we may compare to the local mechanic, just down the road and always only a couple of minutes away.

And behind every team there is the mastermind, not only the one barking instructions but there for anyone who will lend them an ear and that's the coach. So who does this remind you of? The figure in your life that guides you, the one who returns you to the somewhat harsh reality of the world we live in.

The supporters are a crucial part of Rugby, especially in country towns such as Tamworth. Everyone vaguely follows the scores from the weekend but then there is the fanatics those who wouldn't miss the game no matter the conditions. On the sideline, rain, hail or shine, as the saying goes.

In Tamworth it is supporters and followers that keep Rugby running. There is a cross-town rivalry between the Pirates and the Magpies. Each weekend out comes the fold-up chairs and voices that by the end of the game are somewhat croaky.

Following Rugby is not just about the game; it's also about the mates that sit with you, the ones you watch on the field and the ones you yell at sitting on the opposite sideline. Rugby is something you cannot get away from.

Now to the average day in the life of Rugby players: wake (thoughts of Rugby enter the mind), eat (whilst thinking Rugby), school or work (Rugby, Rugby, Rugby), training (yep, Rugby), eat (thinking about Rugby again) and sleep (dreaming about Rugby)…

Well, this may be so, however whatever is going through their heads, it is definitely not all positional plays and tactics. Rugby skills flow into life, whether it be team work of making dinner or unpacking the shopping, whether it be the pride of parenthood or even within yourself for that good maths grade.

Rugby skills are life skills. Rugby is not just another game of football. And it all comes down to one thing,

"What we play is life" – Louis Armstrong

RUGBY MEDIA

Future hero of Tomorrow, Today

Brienne McNamara

Local Rugby player Kieran McNamara 14, isn't a superstar yet but soon will be our future Rugby star. You see he has a passion for Rugby and will soldier on until he gets to the big league. Kieran will get there by training with his team and gradually improving until he is the best that he can be. Kieran has only been playing Rugby for two years and has got a fan club of 6 to 10 year olds that want to be just like him. Kieran is an asset to his team and could go very far.

Yesterday Kieran's team the Euberta Echidnas marched into training getting ready to win the Murrumbidgee Cup tomorrow. Half the session was spent doing the usual routine. These include running, passing, etc. The other half of the session was spent watching movies at the local cinema. When asking the coach, Dan why this was he replied, "Great footy teams are not built on how much the team train, but rather in how much time the team work together and spend time together."

As I followed the Euberta Echidnas into the night, I was shocked to see that the team were doing some kind of weird dance. It looked a bit like the Mexican hat dance. "This is our traditional dance of luck" said Kieran. "It's done before each game we play and has brought us some really great luck in the past."

This morning was the big morning. It was the Murrumbridgee Cup. The Euberta Echidnas marched on to the field like soldiers in a battle. It was a rough, crude game and three players were injured. This battle had become a duel. It was Kieran and number 36. Kieran was running as fast as his legs would take him trying his hardest to score a try. Number 36 lost him for one second but then caught him.

Unfortunately the Euberta Echidnas lost by one try. This was not a disappointment because the team were proud that they were so close to winning. The coach, Dan stated, " The boys played a great game and should be proud of themselves, except next time I think we'll need to do some more dancing."

Through these young boys you can distinctly see how close friendships can be. Even though they lost the big game they trudged down the main streets of Wagga Wagga singing about how great they are anyway. These boys have a positive attitude towards each other and no matter how bad one or all of them play, they're all winners, all friends and will always feel that they are the best.

After this experience I can look at Rugby players with a whole different perspective. Rugby is not just about training to be the best but is about spending time with fellow members and working together. This skill will help players communicate and work well in groups for future use. These dancing traditions that they follow let these players know that they can believe in anything that they want to. By losing this game it teaches these young players that in life things can't always be great and that we always have to get back on the horse.

Most of all seeing these boys sing about how great they are just shows how one bad experience can't bring you down. So going back to Kieran, you can see that not only Kieran but his whole team of Euberta Echidnas can make it to the big league because they have the skill and positive attitude to guide them to be the future stars of tomorrow.

RUGBY MEDIA

STUDENT HANDOUT WORD PUZZLE

Writing

Search the puzzle below and circle the listed words. The first 13 unused letters should form the name of a text type.

T	A	U	R	C	T	E	O	L	H	N	B	I	J	O
I	E	G	E	O	R	N	R	A	C	O	A	P	A	H
R	L	N	P	M	E	O	S	N	T	I	R	I	R	S
I	C	O	O	P	F	Y	U	G	A	T	E	N	G	C
P	I	I	R	E	E	R	P	U	M	A	C	T	O	H
S	T	S	T	T	R	E	P	A	L	M	O	E	N	O
T	R	S	P	I	E	V	O	G	A	R	U	R	P	O
A	A	A	O	T	N	E	R	E	N	O	N	N	L	L
T	Y	P	E	I	C	J	T	B	O	F	T	A	A	O
E	O	W	M	O	E	A	E	K	I	N	M	T	Y	P
S	O	N	G	N	H	E	R	O	T	I	A	I	E	R
B	I	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y	A	D	E	O	R	I
C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	N	F	T	N	C	D
T	E	X	T	L	E	T	I	R	U	O	V	A	F	E
E	N	I	Z	A	G	A	M	E	M	A	G	L	C	B

Hidden word: ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Word list

REPORT	TEAM	FAVOURITE
RECOUNT	MATCH	PLAYER
BIOGRAPHY	TEXT	STATE
JARGON	LANGUAGE	NATIONAL
SUPPORTER	REFERENCE	COMPETITION
SONG	COMMUNITY	HERO
POEM	SCHOOL	PASSION
MAGAZINE	INTERNATIONAL	PRIDE
ARTICLE	GAME	SPIRIT
PLAYER	EVERYONE	INFORMATION