

Writing Series 1 LESSON 4: HYBRID WRITING

Learning Objectives:

1. Be familiar with the **structure** of a hybrid essay
2. Know how to **signpost** your essay to show you have addressed both genres

What is a hybrid essay?

A combination of 2 genres of writing in 1 essay.



1. **Descriptive** and **reflective (expository)**
 - *Describe some school-wide events that are held in your school. What are some lessons you can learn from them?*
 - *Describe your experience of working with others. How has it helped develop you as an individual and team player?*

2. **Personal recount** and **reflective (expository)**
 - *Write about a conflict you had with a close friend or loved one. What are some lessons you learnt from the experience?*
 - *Write about a time someone inspired you to be courageous. In what ways did this experience grow you as an individual?*

How do you organise/structure a hybrid essay?

3 options:

Option A	Option B	Option C
Introduction		
BP1: Describe & Reflect	BP1: Describe	BP1: Describe
BP2: Describe & Reflect	BP2: Reflect	BP2: Reflect
BP3: Describe & Reflect	BP3: Reflect	BP3: Describe
		BP4: Reflect
Conclusion		

Describe a place which means a great deal to you. Why is it so important to you? (OPTION A)

Structure		Writing tips
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Descriptive start	<p>By pure muscle memory, I walk fifty-seven steps along the familiar pavement to find my favourite spot on the sloping stone wall. Planting myself there firmly and stretching my legs out, I find the water right where I left it the last time: beating rhythmically against the grey stone wall, leaving teal-blue splash marks wherever its lapping waves graze. The water advances, sidling up against the stones; it then retreats as if to admire its own masterpiece of water trails before it leaps right back up against the wall. The water chuckles quietly with every repetition of this one-sided dance—a clapping rhythm to keep time. The air is familiarly and welcomingly salty. Further out on the water, boats dot the surface of the water in a variegated array of colours and sizes, from hulking container ships to small yachts and quaint sampans.</p>	<p>In this paragraph, the writer uses metaphors to personify the water as a dancer. Can you find descriptions which show this?</p> <p>Use precise descriptions by</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
Reflective 1	<p>As the sun reclines into the horizon, I think of the times I have spent at this very place. Perhaps, this place means so much to me simply because it has featured constantly throughout my life. I can see myself, ten years younger, <u>chasing my older brothers along the pavement</u>. I would <u>play on the stone wall</u>, picking at the overgrown grass and flowers above, inching my way down the slippery steps to <u>draw near the water</u>. Occasionally, I would pause for a little too long at the lowest step. I would wait for the waves to come in and brush against my feet, laughing hysterically before being chided for going near the water. I loved this game. Even after growing up, this waterfront perch <u>remains my favourite haunt</u>, as my friends and I favour the blanket of tranquillity it offers over the boisterous alternatives of shopping malls. We spend many a languid hour on this very stone wall, musing about life and talking about everything or nothing at all.</p>	<p>Signpost 1 (explains why the place is of great significance)</p> <p><u>Specific examples</u></p>
Descriptive 1	<p>Beyond just being a constant feature in my life, I suppose this waterfront is so important to me because it is where I come to process my emotions. <u>Every time I get angry, I find that I inevitably end up here</u>, trying hard to reason with my emotions. I carry every heartbreak and every joy tenderly to the water, to rationalise and feel them to their depths. Once, <u>I was devastated after failing an English test I had studied hard for, and my immediate inclination was to head to the waterfront to spend my afternoon</u>. Something about the steady rhythms of the water calmed me down, and helped me to breathe a little bit easier. Slowly, my anger and disappointment wilted away, and was replaced with a determination to do better. Each time I sit watching the perpetual movement of the water, an inexplicable sense of peace washes over me, and I am purged of all undesirable feelings. Against the vastness of the body of water which lies before me, docile and yet all at once powerful enough to engulf the entirety of my existence, my anxieties seem minute.</p>	<p>Signpost 2 (reason 2)</p> <p><u>Specific examples</u></p> <p>Weave in descriptions as you elaborate.</p>
Reflective 2	<p>Beyond just being a constant feature in my life, I suppose this waterfront is so important to me because it is where I come to process my emotions. <u>Every time I get angry, I find that I inevitably end up here</u>, trying hard to reason with my emotions. I carry every heartbreak and every joy tenderly to the water, to rationalise and feel them to their depths. Once, <u>I was devastated after failing an English test I had studied hard for, and my immediate inclination was to head to the waterfront to spend my afternoon</u>. Something about the steady rhythms of the water calmed me down, and helped me to breathe a little bit easier. Slowly, my anger and disappointment wilted away, and was replaced with a determination to do better. Each time I sit watching the perpetual movement of the water, an inexplicable sense of peace washes over me, and I am purged of all undesirable feelings. Against the vastness of the body of water which lies before me, docile and yet all at once powerful enough to engulf the entirety of my existence, my anxieties seem minute.</p>	<p><u>Specific examples</u></p> <p>Metaphors and similes help you to</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>your readers. For example, the sensation of peace here is compared to the movement of water, “washing over” the writer.</p>
Descriptive 2	<p>Beyond just being a constant feature in my life, I suppose this waterfront is so important to me because it is where I come to process my emotions. <u>Every time I get angry, I find that I inevitably end up here</u>, trying hard to reason with my emotions. I carry every heartbreak and every joy tenderly to the water, to rationalise and feel them to their depths. Once, <u>I was devastated after failing an English test I had studied hard for, and my immediate inclination was to head to the waterfront to spend my afternoon</u>. Something about the steady rhythms of the water calmed me down, and helped me to breathe a little bit easier. Slowly, my anger and disappointment wilted away, and was replaced with a determination to do better. Each time I sit watching the perpetual movement of the water, an inexplicable sense of peace washes over me, and I am purged of all undesirable feelings. Against the vastness of the body of water which lies before me, docile and yet all at once powerful enough to engulf the entirety of my existence, my anxieties seem minute.</p>	<p><u>Specific examples</u></p> <p>Metaphors and similes help you to</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>your readers. For example, the sensation of peace here is compared to the movement of water, “washing over” the writer.</p>

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Reflective 3	<p>The sunlight has now completely dissolved into the darkening skies, but even as I stand to leave, I let myself linger a little longer. While the waterfront has always been a place of refuge, it has become all the more meaningful for me as my family prepares to move by the end of the year. No longer will this humble place be a five-minute walk from home. As much as I know that I can always come back, I also know that change is imminent. The prospect that things may never be the same again instils quite some fear in me. Considering that my retreats to my haven are numbered, they become all the more precious.</p> <p>I cannot possibly chart out the future, or declare that this place will stay safe from encroaching urban redevelopment. Still, I can acknowledge how deeply significant it is to me as I stand here—maybe for the last time, maybe not. Only time will tell. For now, for what it is worth, I hold this place close to my heart.</p>	<u>Signpost 3</u> (reason 3)
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Bonus vocabulary building exercise!

Look up the words bolded in **red** to find out their meaning. Make it a point to use them in your next piece of writing!