



Creative Response Rationale Guidelines

What is a rationale?

A rationale is a 400-600 word explanation of the choices you have made in your creative response to a text studied in class.

Why write one?

The purpose of your rationale is to demonstrate how well you have understood the original text and the ways in which your creative response shows this. You need to make careful and specific links between the two, focusing on why you chose to respond in this way and how you went about it.

What should be in it?

This will vary a little depending on the type of response you have chosen.

Written Response Rationale

It should include:

- A description of your choice which-
 - (i) connects it to your broad aims/intentions
 - (ii) sets your choice in a clear context (ie time, place, incident, characters involved etc)
- An explanation of the approach you have taken so that your reasons for your choice of genre and language are clear.
- An explanation of the processes undertaken in preparation for your response.

A useful thing to remember is to analyse your response in the same terms as you would any literary piece – i.e. plot, character, setting, theme and style. Ensure that you have talked about most or all of these aspects both in terms of your own response and in terms of how your writing reflects, expands upon or critiques the original literary work. Use quotations from both texts (the original and your response) to demonstrate the links you have made.

Non-written response rationale

A successful non-written response will reflect clear links to the text as well as facility with the chosen medium, imagination and originality. The rationale may be longer (up to 1 000 words) and should include:

- A description of your choice which
 - (i) connects it to your broad aims/intentions
 - (ii) sets your choice in a clear context (ie time, place, incident, characters involved etc)
- An explanation of the approach you have taken so that you demonstrate an understanding of and critical response to the text

- An explanation of the processes undertaken in the preparation of your creative piece.
- An explanation of anything specific in terms of the medium chosen- including technical aspects where appropriate.

As with written responses, you need to demonstrate your deep and thorough knowledge of the original text. You must explain how your response aims to capture or comment upon specific aspects of the original work- i.e. plot, character, setting, theme and style. In particular in a non-written, you need to explain any use of imagery or symbolism and link to the original by use of textual quotations.

How should I write it?

- Write in paragraphs
- Use specific examples from both texts
- Quote where possible, particularly when discussing style and language
- Use of 'I' is appropriate
- Write in sentences, not point form
- Avoid slang
- Sum up overall aims in your final paragraph

How will it be marked?

[See assessment criteria on your assignment sheet]