

# Improving Writing through Planning

*Kelly Stringer, Countesthorpe Community College*

## 1

## The Context

The Year 8 Key Stage 3 training materials contained a case study on Improving Writing by intervening in the process at various stages. It involved a pupil, Jamie, working at level 3 and on the SEN register. She was asked to produce an essay for history about whether life was easy or difficult in 1344 and why. Her first attempt produced a paragraph of writing. She was then helped by using a plan structure and rewrote the essay. There was further intervention with some work on connectives and linking phrases and Jamie redrafted a paragraph of her piece to produce work which showed that she was now working at the same level as the rest of the class, about level 4.

This material has been used on various training sessions and is valuable in showing teachers what can be achieved, but we felt that it would be useful to have an example from Leicestershire.

The writing plan was introduced to Countesthorpe Community College in January as part of INSET on improving writing. All departments have taken it on and have been trialling the use of it in lessons.

It has been found to be a useful tool for teachers. The PE department have used it with Year 12 & 13 and the drama department have used it for coursework at GCSE.

The example of work which follows is from Humanities.

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## 2.

# The Assignment

### PREDUDICE AND PERSECUTION

#### ASSIGNMENT 1 - DISCRIMINATION

You have been commissioned by a local newspaper to write an article on the effects of discrimination.

Your article should include information on the following areas:

1. What is discrimination?
2. Types of discrimination
3. Causes of discrimination
4. Examples of discrimination
5. Effects of discrimination



#### Resources

- Class notes on discrimination
- Individual case studies from the video 'Skin'

#### Suggested headlines

- Are You Being Discriminated Against?
- It Could Happen To You!
- Harassment and Murder: The Effects of Discrimination

#### Assessment

Marks will be given out of 10 for the following areas:

- Content
- Style
- Presentation

**Total Marks = 30**

#### Deadlines

Create Plan \_\_\_\_\_

Draft Article \_\_\_\_\_

Final Article \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3.

# Work Produced

This is the first piece of work that Laura handed in as her completed assignment:

*Types of discrimination*

*What is discrimination?*

*Examples of discrimination*

*Causes of discrimination*

*Effects of discrimination*

Laura

### DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is where a person, usually groups of people, are treated differently (usually less well) based on prejudiced beliefs. Discrimination occurs in two ways, direct and indirect. Discrimination can occur in everyday life, it ranges from basic name calling to murder.

The causes of discrimination can be a person, age, gender, sex, nationality, ability, wealth, general appearance, where they live, religion, sexuality, intelligence, health or their accent. Examples of discrimination are Mal Hussain in the video 'Skin'. Male got called 'black monkey', received threats and got attacks on his video shop.

May views on racism are that it is an ill behaviour based on prejudice beliefs/thoughts. Making discrimination is a vicious circle that doesn't seem to have a solution.

This piece shows that Laura has answered all of the points on the assignment sheet but she has not developed any of her ideas so she has fulfilled, to a certain extent, the requirement for content, but has not covered either presentation or writing style.

This piece could get no more than a E/D grade.

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## 4.

# Planning Sheet

Introduction

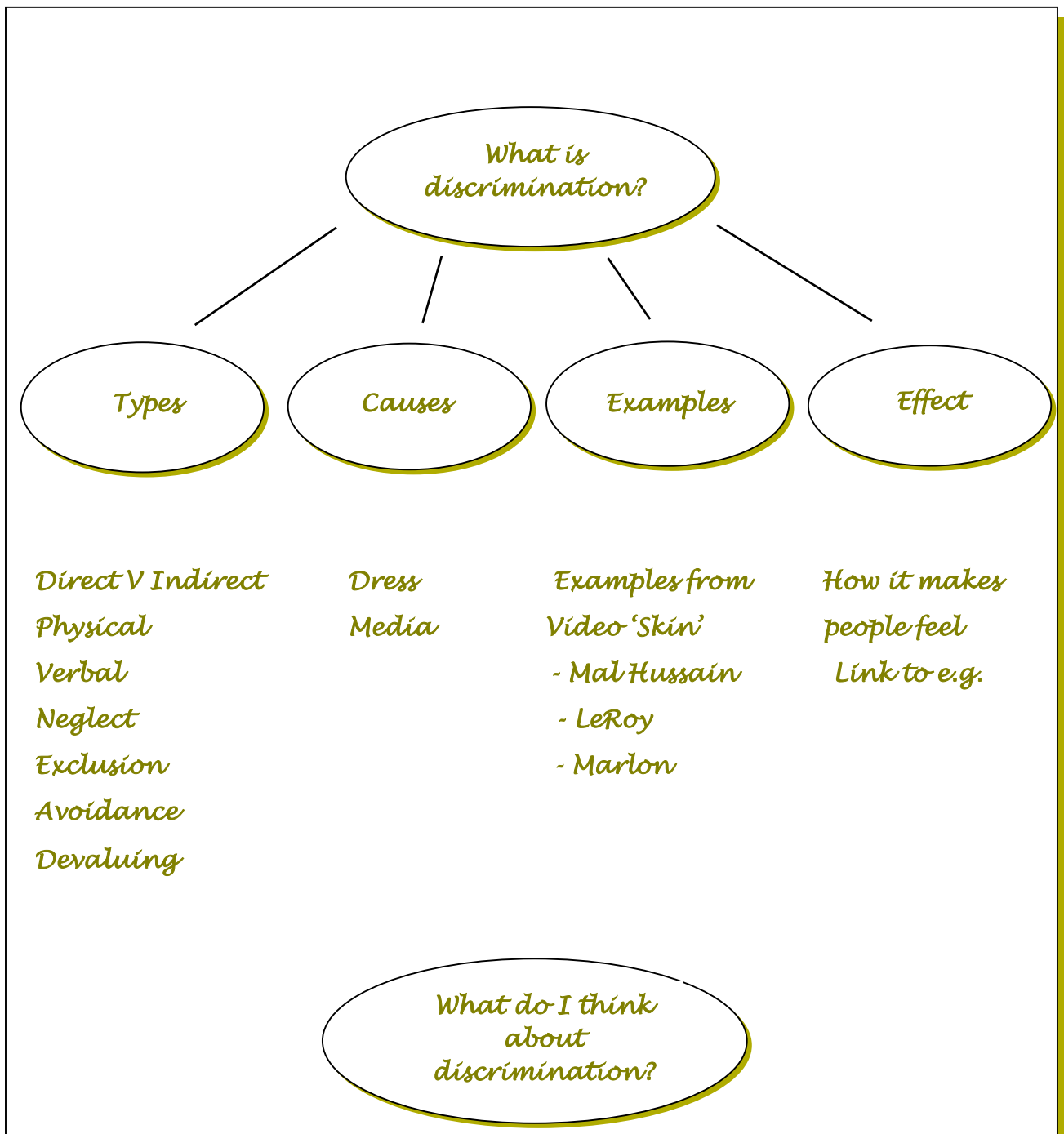
Conclusion

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## 5.

# Laura's Plan



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## Reworked Essay

### DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is where a person, usually groups of people, are treated differently (usually less well) based on prejudiced beliefs.

Discrimination occurs in two different ways. Direct, being very open and obvious and about your views, and indirect, where it's done in a more discreet way. For example, refusing a guest on the doorstep of your party would be direct. Indirect, however, would be not to invite them in the first place.

There are six different main types of discrimination. **Verbal** is things like name calling and swearing, but it can also be non verbal things, such as the 'v' sign. **Physical** can be hitting or spitting etc... but also things like vandalism. **Neglect** is ignoring a person or not offering to help when they obviously need it. **Exclusion** is picking on a particular person out of a group. For example, not letting someone leave the classroom at the same time as everyone else or not inviting one person to your party when you've invited everyone else. **Avoidance** is avoiding someone because of his or her race, colour, sex etc. **Devaluing** is putting somebody down and valuing others more.

The causes of discrimination can be a persons age, gender, sex, nationality, ability, wealth, general appearance, where they live, religion, sexuality, intelligence, health or their accent. This could be down to the news/media giving viewers a one sided story of somebody that then gives the viewer a prejudiced view on their group. For example, the older members of our society may think that the youths who dress in a certain way cause trouble, From either reading an article or watching the news and then seeing a person dressing that way misbehaving.

At this point the only causes of discrimination that are protected by law are somebody's health, skin colour, race, nationality, gender and ability. So for example it's not illegal to discriminate someone because of his or her wealth, general appearance i.e. hair colour), speech/accent, religion, sexuality, age, intelligence or where about they live.

Discrimination can occur in everyday life, it can range from basic name calling to murder.

Examples of discrimination are in the video 'Skin'. Mal Hussain, who lives with Linda in Northampton, who originated in Pakistan. Mal got called 'black monkey', received threats, and got attacks on his shop. This left them both feeling inferior to white people, upset, distressed, and also resulted in him loosing his ambitions

Discrimination can have worse after effects, such as LeRoy's brother, Marlon, who was left in a waking coma after being hit over the head with a numerous amount of heavy objects.

However, discrimination is not always racism that's aimed at coloured. Norman and Mandy Everit's son was stabbed by a group of Asian youths. He then died of internal bleeding. This left the Everits with hatred and anger towards Asian people.

My views on discrimination are that it is an ill behaviour based on prejudiced thoughts/beliefs. Which can sometimes leave the victim and its family with prejudice views on that particular group, of which they probably wouldn't have had before the discrimination attacks. Making discrimination a vicious circle that doesn't seem to have a solution other than that of people opening their eyes wider and seeing how we are all the same inside, resulting in them realising how pathetic and cruel discrimination really is. I'd like to be fair and argue the good points in my essay but for discrimination there really aren't any. The only relatively merciful point I can give for those who behave in this manner is that a lot of the causes for discrimination could be down to the media. For example reporters are renown for giving one-sided stories. Other than that I see discrimination as a cruel and harsh way for anybody to behave.

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## 7.

## Commentary

*Laura has improved her work. She has structured it better and has succeeded in writing an extended piece that covers all of the elements required from the assignment. In fact when she starts writing about her personal views the writing becomes more vivid.*

*She has put more variety into her sentence structures and used a variety of different clauses which make her writing more interesting. There is a good use of connectives to give examples in the piece - she uses however, for example, other than that.*

*She has started to structure her paragraphs with the Point, Evidence, Explanation form, because she now knows what information she will be writing in each paragraph.*

*The essay would probably now get a grade 'B'.*

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## 8.

## Future Work

*There are still areas that would improve the work. It needs to be checked for spelling and grammar mistakes which could be eliminated. It does not fulfil the requirements to write an article for the local newspaper and work would need to be done on the conventions of that style of writing and an appropriate tone.*

*There is still room to expand on the ideas in some sections of the essay, especially where the causes of discrimination are listed without being developed and the role of the media in creating discrimination.*

*More work could be done on using the Point, Evidence, Explanation structure for paragraphs.*