

# Nelson English Usage

*Digital resources for the Australian Curriculum*

## *Write or Die by Dr Wicked: Argumentative*

Dr Wicked's **Write or Die** creative writing lab is a tool that encourages writing and punishes procrastination. In this worksheet, you will use Write or Die to create a piece of argumentative writing on a topic that you've selected from the list below or that your teacher has given you. You will need to do some research for this piece of writing. One or two classes should be enough time to gather information. If you run out of time in class, complete the task as homework.

### **Argumentative writing: 300–400 words**

- Breed-specific dog legislation: who's to blame when dogs attack – does breed have anything to do with it?
- Should imprisonment of arsonists be mandatory in Australia?
- Do your own research: Wikipedia as a reliable assignment resource
- Does Australia have a gambling problem? Plain packaging of cigarettes: will it make a difference, or is it just stifling personal choice?
- To chase or not to chase: should high-speed police pursuits be banned?
- The proposed Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)
- World of Warcraft and the rise of Wii: are video games addictive?
- Wikileaks, Julian Assange and America's response
- Your privacy made public: web 2.0, Facebook, Twitter and more

### **Instructions**

- 1 After choosing a topic, do your research. This should take you one or two classes to complete. Keep track of your material, but do not quote any direct text without referencing it correctly.
- 2 Plot an outline for the piece of writing, using the boxes below. Do not write your pieces in these boxes. Treat them as dot points or prompts for when you are using Write or Die.

### **Topic**

**Title**

**My position on this topic (summarise in one sentence)**

**Things to mention in my introduction**

**Things to mention in my paragraphs**

**Things to mention in my conclusion**

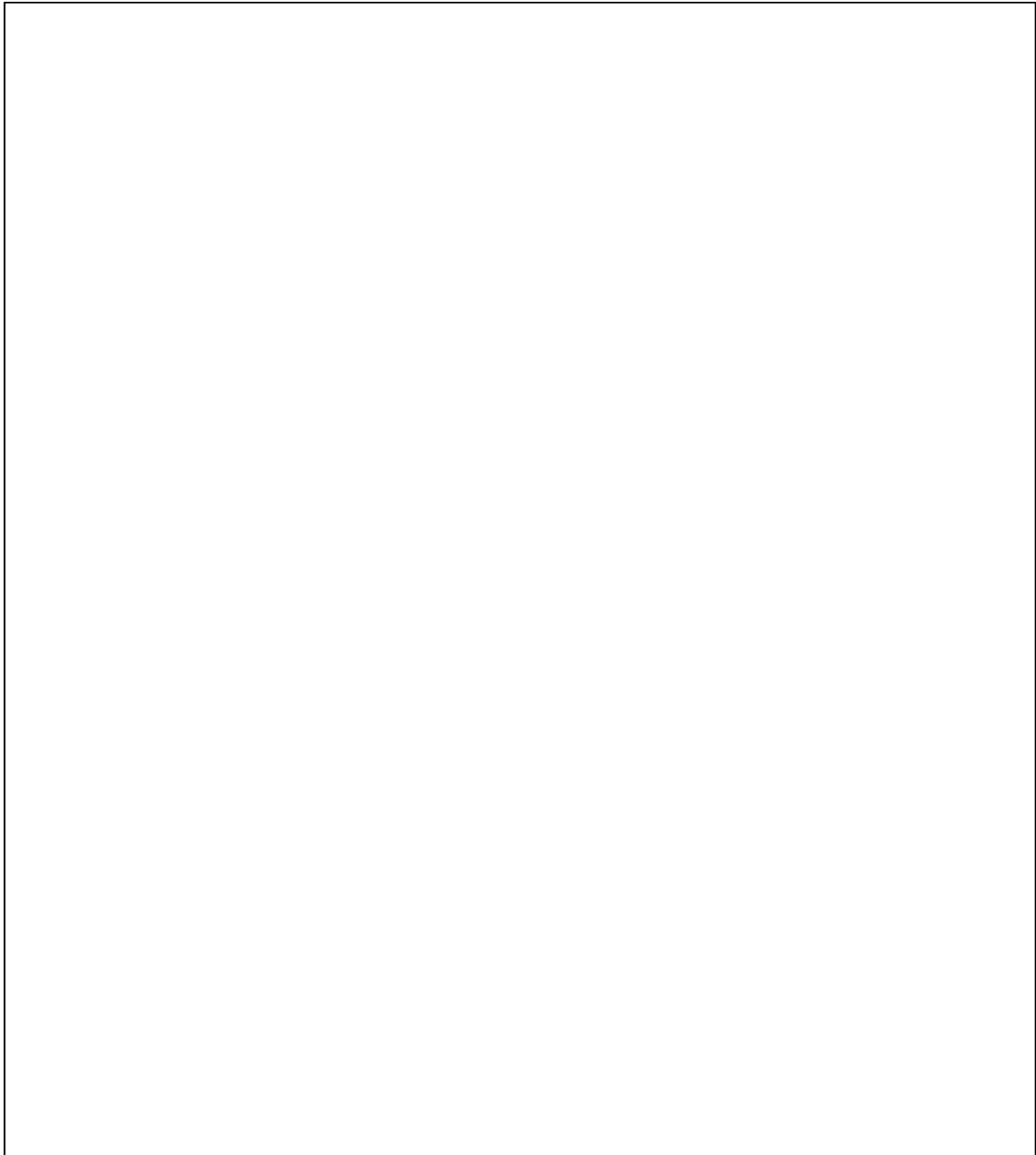
- 3 Visit the [Write or die website](#) and try it for free. If you want to use the longer times in this activity you'll need to go to the old version, [here](#), and scroll down to the web app.
- 4 To begin, key 300 into the **Word Goal** box, and select 30 min from the **Time Goal** dropdown. Under **Consequences**, select Normal mode, and under **Grace Period**, select Strict.
- 5 Quickly re-read your outline as completed above and on the previous page, then, on Write or Die, click 'Write!'
- 6 Start typing your argumentative piece into the page that opens. It will keep track of your word count and will alert you when you are writing too slowly.

- 7 Do not worry too much at this stage if you are writing haphazardly. This first draft is simply about getting you to write.
- 8 When you are finished, select all of the text in the box (CTRL A for Windows, CTRL Apple key for Mac), and then copy it. Paste it here, then save this file:

- 9 Go back to the Write or Die page, and click **Done** in the top right-hand corner.

**10** During your next class, repeat steps 3–9 for your second draft, but with 375 words as your goal.

Paste your second draft here, and save this file again:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for pasting the second draft of the text. The box occupies most of the page's vertical space below the instructions.

**11** Read both of your drafts and compare them against your outline and your research. Make notes if needed. Type your comparison notes here:

**12** Go back to Write or Die to complete your final copy. This time, your settings should be 450 words, 48 minutes, Normal and Evil. Paste your final draft here:

13 How long did it take you to write your final copy?

I wrote  words in  minutes.

14 Save this file, making sure that it contains all of your drafts, outlines and notes, and submit it to your teacher.

### Teacher comments