

# FA Writing challenges

## WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

<b>Objective</b>	<b>To write an article from the perspective of a player about their journey to the SSE Women's FA Cup Final or similar</b>
<b>Success criteria:</b>	I can imagine I am about to play a very important football match and write a narrative description of the journey I have taken to get there using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ appropriate and precise vocabulary</li> <li>■ a variety of sentence structures</li> <li>■ Standard English</li> </ul>
	I can structure my writing into sections so that it is clear to the reader using <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ paragraphs</li> <li>■ appropriate linking devices so that my sections flow smoothly</li> </ul>
	I can make my writing lively and interesting by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ thinking about my readers and what they want to know</li> <li>■ using details to make the description realistic</li> </ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Whiteboard</li> <li>■ Challenge 1: 'Inside the team camp' video – please note this was created for FA Writing Challenges for the SSE Women's FA Cup Final 2017: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvOpsSzSoUo&amp;t=6s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvOpsSzSoUo&amp;t=6s</a></li> <li>■ Resource 1: image</li> <li>■ Resource 2: mindmap</li> <li>■ Resource 3: model article</li> <li>■ Resource 4: the player's journey ideas</li> <li>■ Resource 5: planning grid</li> <li>■ Highlighters/coloured pencils</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting resources from National Literacy Trust website</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ PowerPoints for secondary schools on vocabulary, grammar and reading in subject areas which are designed for literacy leaders to use in a whole-school staff meeting or INSET but are just as valuable for individual teachers to read themselves. <a href="http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/our_network/network_themes/previous_topic_resources_for_literacy_leaders">http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/our_network/network_themes/previous_topic_resources_for_literacy_leaders</a>.</li> <li>■ Use our <b>Craze of the Month</b> feature for more ideas on using pupil's interests as hooks to teach literacy</li> </ul>

# WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

## Lesson plan

**Objective: To write an article from the perspective of a player about their journey to the SSE Women's FA Cup Final or similar**

### Starter (10 minutes)

Show **Resource 1** on the whiteboard. Give students 1 minute to look at the image carefully and write down words, phrases or questions that they have about what they can see. Share ideas. Students to complete

**Resource 2** using key words and phrases about how players would be feeling before an important match. They need to think about their emotions using all of their senses.

Show students **Challenge 1** – a video outlining the task for 'Inside the team camp'. Explain that they will need to write an article from the point of view of a player about their journey to the SSE Women's FA Cup Final or a similar match. (e.g. *Emirates FA Cup Final or school tournament*)

### Main activity (40 minutes)

#### Activity 1: Model

Read **Resource 3** (written by Alex Scott) as a class. Ask students to circle any words or phrases that they don't understand. Clarify meanings using dictionaries or by drawing upon students' knowledge.

#### Activity 2: Comprehension

Divide the class into three groups. Using highlighters/coloured pencils ask them to underline words and phrases in the article based on the following criteria:

**Group 1:** The team's preparations – highlight phrases or words that show what the team did to prepare for the match including before/during training camp and the week before the match.

Extension: *What might the team do on the day of the match?*

**Group 2:** Connectives – highlight all of the connectives that they can find in the article. *Is the article in chronological order?*

Extension: Can you think of any more connectives?

**Group 3:** Senses and emotions – highlight examples where the author uses description linked to senses or emotions.

Extension: *Could you add any more sensory description into her article.*

After 10 minutes ask students to get into groups of three, one from each group, and share the answers with each other.

#### Activity 3: Planning

Ask students to consider which aspects of the player's journey they would like to include in their article. Discuss what the word 'journey' means in this context: either the literal transportation to a major event or metaphorically to describe a longer period of time.

Use **Resource 4** as a writing frame to enable students to break down their plan into three sections: initial feelings, a flashback connected to the event and the week before. They can then plan their ideas in a planning grid using **Resource 5**. Encourage students to think about an exciting headline and striking subtitles.

### Plenary (10 minutes)

In pairs students need to check that they understand what they need to do to complete the challenge and what they need to include using the success criteria.

Each student to share the part of the player's preparation they are going to include in their article. Students to write down additional ideas/word or phrases on their plan.

#### Set as homework

Remind students what the challenge involves. Highlight the word limit and deadline for submission.

# WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

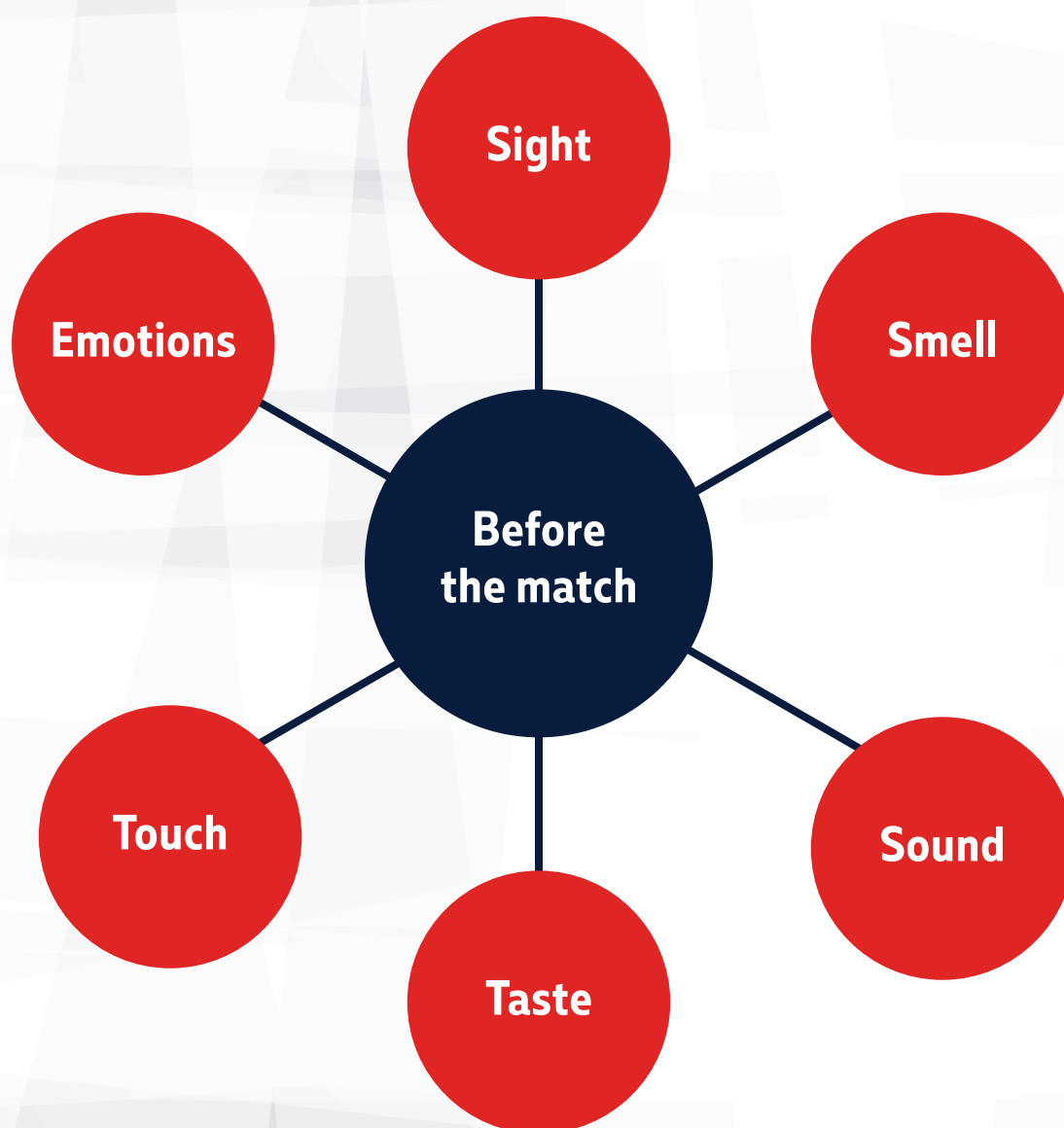
## Resource 1



# WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

## Resource 2

Write down words and phrases that you would expect the players to feel before a big match. Imagine what they would see, hear, smell, taste and the feel around them.



### Resource 3

Sport > Football > News & Comment

# Alex Scott: England veteran speaks of the 'buzz' of a World Cup debut

First England qualified. Then I was named in the squad. Next there was a pre-tournament training camp. Finally, we touched down in China. In customs, I looked up, and there it was, a big poster with 'Fifa World Cup' written on it. That is when it really sank in: I was at a World Cup.



As a player being in a World Cup is almost indescribable. You just want to take everything in because you never know if your first may be your last but you have made the World Cup. All the years of hard work have paid off. The training as a kid, the fitness work, the sacrifices when your friends are going out and you have a match to prepare for. All worth it.

I remember my first World Cup back in 2007 like it was yesterday. We went to Macau for a training camp to get used to high temperatures. Preparation went well, we played a couple of friendlies, then it was off to China. I can still picture that poster behind customs now. When it's your first World Cup you want to take pictures of everything and that was the first.

Then you board the coach to the hotel and you see posters on the street, locals in football tops and World Cup sign after World Cup sign on every lamp post. This is it! You can feel the atmosphere!

The week before the first game can drag, because you just want to get started. You feel like you have all the preparation you need and you are like a caged animal just waiting to be let loose.



## WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

### Resource 3 continued

But you need to do the fine-tuning in training and watch the videos; work on team shape, how you are going to break the opposition down and defend as a team.

I remember sitting down to watch the opening ceremony in our hotel. Seeing the opening game and the fans gave me goosebumps. In the coming days that would be me, walking out to thousands of fans in my first World Cup. I had played in FA Cup finals, in the Champions League final and for England in the European Championships, but this was different. Excitement, nerves and adrenalin all started to rush through me. That night I dreamed of our opening game.

I was buzzing with excitement and pride but the team helped keep me focused.

Playing in a stadium filled with screaming fans, wearing that Three Lions shirt, knowing everyone back home, all your family and friends and the nation are watching, willing you on, is a massive pressure. It can feel heavy for some while others will shine.

It is important to remember the adage: "Win as a team, lose as a team, it's never down to an individual." To know everyone in your camp has your back brings that unity you need. Being away for that long can be tough, but when you are together as a team you get through it.

*Alex Scott plays for Arsenal Ladies. She has 112 England caps and played in the 2007 and 2011 World Cups.*

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/alex-scott-england-veteran-speaks-of-the-buzz-of-a-world-cup-debut-9524987.html>

# WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

## Resource 4

### The player's journey

Imagine you are a player and you are thinking about your journey to the SE Women's FA Cup Final. Use the sentence starters and ideas from your mindmap to think about your thought process.

#### **'First....'**

*(your initial reaction when you found out you were playing in the final)*

#### **'I remember...'**

*(a flashback to a time that inspired you to become a footballer/your first experience of the World Cup)*

#### **'The week before the game...'**

*(your preparation before the final)*

# WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

## Resource 5

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