

Year 6 Non-Fiction Writing: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to non-fiction writing can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring non-fiction writing together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child would benefit from more practice writing non-fiction texts or they are confident with this text type and want to find out more, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

language features of non-fiction writing



Click here



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Non-Fiction Writing

What Is Non-Fiction Writing?

Non-fiction writing is factual writing or writing that's based on real events. It's the opposite of fiction – writing that describes imaginary people, settings and situations.

Non-fiction writing can take different forms. By year 6, your child will have studied six non-fiction text types: instructions, recounts (writing about what happened in the order it happened in), reports (a description of the characteristics of something), explanations (a technical explanation of how something happens or works), persuasive writing (convincing someone to do something) and discussions (putting forward a reasoned argument).

By the end of year 6, children should display a sound knowledge of the different non-fiction text types and be familiar with the features and conventions specific to each, such as the use of the first person when writing diaries and autobiographies. They should be able to reflect their understanding of the audience for and purpose of their writing by using appropriate grammar and vocabulary to enhance the effect it has on the reader.

Your child should also be able to plan, structure and organise their non-fiction writing (using bullet points and subheadings, for example) and develop their initial ideas by drawing on reading and research where appropriate. By this stage, they should also be able to evaluate and edit their work, proposing changes to make sure the meaning of what they have written is clear.

As well as using the resources in this category and the suggested keyword searches to help your child with non-fiction writing, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child build up and develop their non-fiction writing skills are described below.

Persuade Me

Encourage your child to design a leaflet persuading someone to buy something, such as a brand-new product or a holiday to the Caribbean. What words and phrases would they use? Can they think of a catchy slogan?

Time Capsule

If you were to create and set up a time capsule for someone in 50 years to discover, how would your child describe life at the present time? What are the good and bad things, what are the trends and what are their predictions for the future?

Create a Crossword

Encourage your child to write down technical language from a non-fiction text they are reading or an encyclopedia. Can they write a glossary describing what the words mean? Can they then create a crossword giving appropriate clues for each word?

Convince Me

Encourage your child to use persuasive language by asking them to convince someone to do something, for example, a parent to let them stay up late or a teacher to give them an extension on their homework.



Step 1

Language Features of Non-Fiction Writing

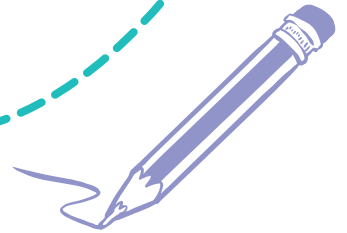
By year 6, your child will be expected to include a variety of punctuation and sentence structures in their writing (simple, compound and complex) as well as a range of technical and academic vocabulary where appropriate. Your child will use dictionaries and thesauruses to check the meaning and spelling of words they are using and to write glossaries for the more technical words they include. You can refer to this year 6 spelling, punctuation and grammar guide for a useful glossary of key grammatical terms learnt at each stage of primary school along with definitions of what they mean.



Organising Non-Fiction Writing

At this stage, your child should be familiar with six non-fiction text types - instructions, recounts, reports, explanations, persuasion and discussions. They should be aware of the different features of each and know how to organise their writing so that it is clear and easy for the reader to understand. They will be expected to continue to use paragraphs as a way of grouping ideas about the same topic together as well as to use headings, sub-headings, bullet points and underlining as organisational tools. This pack of guides to different text types could be a fantastic reference for your child to revise the different features of non-fiction texts.

Step 2



Step 3

Planning Non-Fiction Writing

By this stage, your child should be able to create a detailed plan showing the form their non-fiction writing is going to take, bearing in mind the audience and purpose for their writing. Your child may also undertake their own research to include in their writing, taking notes and summarising longer passages. These planning sheets and information posters can help your child create the perfect plan for their non-fiction writing.



Writing and Editing Non-Fiction Writing

Once they have carried out their research and developed a plan, your child is ready to write their non-fiction text incorporating key features and language specific to the text type. By year 6, children should be able to assess the effectiveness of their own and others' writing once work is completed, proofreading for spelling and punctuation errors as well as suggesting improvements to vocabulary choices and sentence structures. These proofreading activities have been designed to help your child to re-read and improve their work.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



twinkl
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!