Year 11 Narrative or Descriptive Writing Thinking Tasks (Williams Taxonomy)

Fluency – Narrative: Brainstorm as many plot events, purposes and audiences as you can in a group of 4-5 Descriptive: Brainstorm as many topics, purposes and audiences as you can in a group of 4-5. You need a scribe to write down ideas in an organized way. When you have finished, stick it on the board for everyone to share.

Flexibility – Narrative: In a new group brainstorm different resolutions or interesting beginnings you could use. Descriptive: In a new group brainstorm how could you develop the topics? (combination of setting and character description; detailed description about one thing; describe topic in relation to lots of other things). Write down for yourself any that sound good to you. Also scribe it and stick on board for sharing.

Originality – Narrative: In a further new group, brainstorm interesting twists you have seen in stories or make up your own. Also consider as many interesting ways your characters could talk as you can or other ways to make all your characters individual. Descriptive: what style will you use? (which techniques will you focus on most to make the description interesting to read; how will you show your personality in the writing?). Write down anything you think you can use. Also scribe it and stick on board for sharing.

Elaboration – Narrative: By yourself, use the brainstorming ideas from earlier (and the story circle planning tool) to create a plot for your narrative and a strong theme/message. Incorporate Risk Taking – Experiment by putting in an ending, beginning and/or twist you have never used before. Try aiming at an audience you have never addressed before i.e. children. Description: By yourself, use the ideas you have gathered to plan your description structure and mood. Incorporate Risk Taking – Experiment by using techniques you have never used before or using them in a different way.

Complexity – Narrative: By yourself, create 2 really interesting complex characters. You will be using these characters in your story. Below are examples of really boring basic characters with no real individuality:

1. A pretty girl with lots of friends. She is thin, has long hair and is clever and good at school. Her family is supportive.
2. A tall boy who is good at sport. He has one good friend and is buff and built. He likes cars and hates school.

Descriptive: By yourself, find a list of 20 awesome vocabulary words that will suit the subject and mood of your description

# Imagination – Narrative: Visualize your characters in as many situations as you can. Use the situation as a heading and underneath write what your character would do in that situation. This will help you understand their personalities and make them realistic. Descriptive: write a simile, a metaphor and a personification on your topic that use seriously imaginative comparisons (ie “Watching a dog try to chew a large piece of toffee is a pastime fit for gods. Mr. Fusspot's mixed ancestry had given him a dexterity of jaw that was truly awesome. He somersaulted happily around the floor, making faces like a rubber gargoyle in a washing machine.” Terry Pratchett)

Curiosity – Narrative: What would happen if you deleted a character from your story? What would happen if you added one? Would your story work if you had a different purpose? Think about what the answers tell you about your narrative. Descriptive: What would happen if you introduced a contrast? What would happen if you used a repetition to create structure? Could these or any other techniques you can think of improve the interest of your description?