



# FA Writing challenges

## WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

### Competition Guidance Notes

#### 'Exclusive! Inside the team camp!'

The challenge is for any students from Years 7 and 8.

Each school is allowed to **submit ONE ENTRY PER FORM** for this challenge. You will therefore need to shortlist the best entries within your class prior to submission. The deadline for **'Exclusive! Inside the team camp challenge'** is **26 April 2017**.

Please submit all entries either as a Word document or PDF file, using a maximum of 500 words.

When you click on the 'Competition Submission' button you will be automatically signposted to a central email address. Please **add the name of the challenge into the title of your email** and ensure that **the competition entry attachments DO NOT exceed 5MB per email**.

**PLEASE NOTE** that you will need to gain permission from the parents/guardians of the pupils whose work you decide to submit on behalf of your school. You should also ensure that, if your entry wins, you and your class would need to be able to travel to the SSE Women's FA Cup Final on Saturday 13 May 2017 at Wembley Stadium. You will be responsible for all travel arrangements.

If you have any queries regarding the submission of your competition entries please email: [info@kkexcel.co.uk](mailto:info@kkexcel.co.uk)

To view the competition terms and conditions please click [here](#).

Objective	To write an article from the perspective of a player about their journey to the SSE Women's FA Cup Final or similar
Success criteria:	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>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Whiteboard</li><li>■ Challenge 1: 'Inside the team camp' video</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>

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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)	Main activity (40 minutes)	Plenary (10 minutes)
<p>Show <b>Resource 1</b> 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.</p> <p>Students to complete <b>Resource 2</b> 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.</p> <p>Show students <b>Challenge 1</b> – 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. <i>Emirates FA Cup Final or school tournament</i>)</p>	<p><b>Activity 1: Model</b> Read <b>Resource 3</b> (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.</p> <p><b>Activity 2: Comprehension</b> 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:</p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> 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: <i>What might the team do on the day of the match?</i></p> <p><b>Group 2:</b> Connectives – highlight all of the connectives that they can find in the article. <i>Is the article in chronological order?</i> Extension: Can you think of any more connectives?</p> <p><b>Group 3:</b> Senses and emotions – highlight examples where the author uses description linked to senses or emotions. Extension: <i>Could you add any more sensory description into her article.</i></p> <p>After 10 minutes ask students to get into groups of three, one from each group, and share the answers with each other.</p> <p><b>Activity 3: Planning</b> 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.</p> <p>Use <b>Resource 4</b> 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 <b>Resource 5</b>. Encourage students to think about an exciting headline and striking subtitles.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Set as homework</b> Remind students what the challenge involves. Highlight the word limit and deadline for submission.</p> <p>Ask students to submit their entries to you for initial judging. Provide a deadline that gives you enough time to review them and submit one entry into the competition via the FA website <a href="http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/national-literacy-trust">http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/national-literacy-trust</a> by April 26. Wish them luck!</p>

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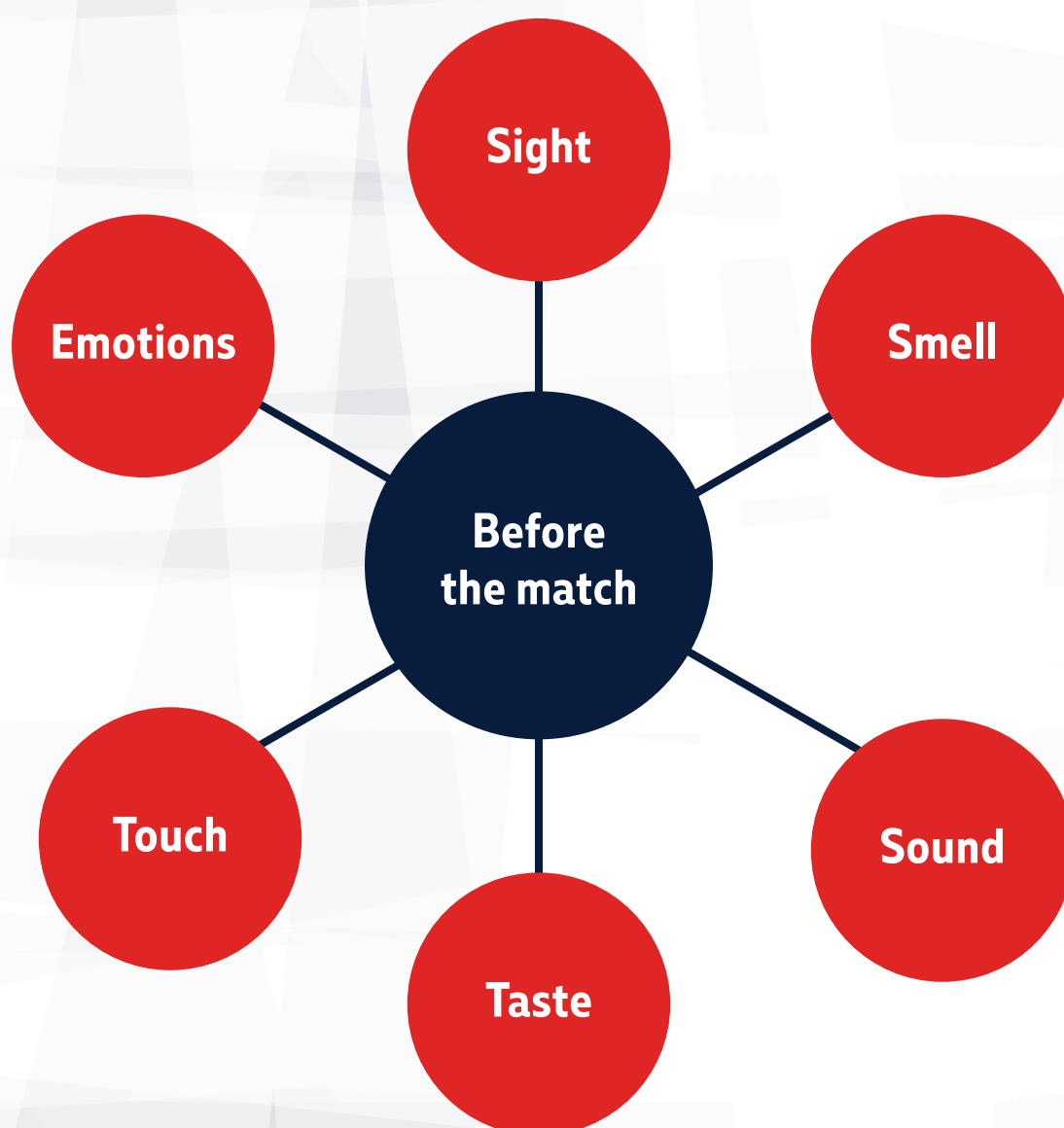
### Resource 1



# 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.





## WRITING CHALLENGE 1: Inside the team camp

### 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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