

Edwardian Context Task Sheet

Directions: Select the writing option that most appeals to you and use the relevant task card to help you complete the creative writing task.

Options	Perspective	Audience	Format	Topic
Option 1	Reporter	Readers of newspaper <i>The Ruling Men</i> , who do not approve of women being given the vote	News article	Emmeline Pankhurst's speech in Hartford, Connecticut
Option 2	Lead Striker	Potential Chain Maker strikers who need persuading to join the movement	Speech	Working conditions for the Chain Makers
Option 3	Soldier from the battlefield	Anti-war magazine (<i>Britons, Your Soldiers Need You!</i>) documenting the experiences of soldiers in the First World War	Descriptive writing	Experience in the trenches
Option 4	Survivor of the <i>Titanic</i>	To a close friend	Letter	The sinking of the <i>Titanic</i>

Task Cards

Option One: Reporter

What is she thinking? Her speech is inflammatory and she is trying to justify the unjustifiable – women should be seen and not heard! Giving them the vote will only create social instability!

You are a reporter for *The Ruling Men*, a broadsheet newspaper whose target audience is traditionally conservative men. Your newspaper sent you to attend Emmeline Pankhurst's 'Freedom or Death' speech in Hartford, Connecticut, so that you could write an article about it.

Remember to:

- Write in a formal style targeted at the newspaper's audience, and include the features of a newspaper (headline, strapline, byline);
- Include persuasive literary devices (repetition, rhetorical questions, emotive/descriptive language, inclusive pronouns, etc.);
- Refer to and argue against information included in Pankhurst's speech.

Option Two: Lead Striker

For too long now, women have been regarded as slaves of the forge! They have been mistreated, expected to work ungodly hours, and have been paid a pittance for their back-breaking work!

You are a Chain Maker who has had enough of the exploitative conditions and you think the way to change them is to strike. You are delivering a speech to fellow chain makers, persuading them to join you and to gain some kind of control over your working conditions.

Remember to:

- Refer to what you know about the treatment of female industrial workers and women in general;
- Keep the language engaging, but formal;
- Include the features of a speech (initial greeting, direct address, final sign-off);
- Include persuasive literary devices (repetition, rhetorical questions, emotive/descriptive language, inclusive pronouns, etc.).

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Option Three: Soldier

Living in the trenches is enough to tip anyone over the edge: the constant threat of bombardment, the shots ringing out long after dark, the rats the size of dogs which have glutted themselves on the fallen. It all feels too much!

You are a soldier living in the trenches in the First World War and you have been asked to send a description of your experiences that will be collected and published in the anti-war magazine *Britons, Your Soldiers Need You!*

Remember to:

- Refer to what you know about the experience of war and living in the trenches;
- Include a range of literary devices (similes, metaphors, repetition, rhetorical questions, adjectives, etc.);
- Develop your description by zooming in on details.

Option Four: Survivor

The sinking of the ship stays with you. The cold of the night, the screams of the freezing, and the bittersweet knowledge of the fact that you were one of the lucky ones.

You survived the sinking of the *Titanic*, but you have been scarred by your experience. You write your friend in England a letter from America shortly after you were rescued and brought to New York City.

Remember to:

- Refer to what you learnt about the *Titanic* and the experience of survivors;
- Write in a familiar style and include the features of a letter (address, date, greeting, sign-off);
- Include descriptive details that outline your feelings and experiences, using a range of literary devices (similes, metaphors, repetition, rhetorical questions, adjectives, etc.).

