English Language Arts 10-2

Unit 2: Comprehend and respond to texts

The same gap, three different forms

Features of three forms

- Every Thursday, downtown practicum, a work placement, ends at 4:10, and the last neighbourhood bus leaves at 3:40. Three forms can carry that gap. Poster on the stairwell: the heading Thursday gap, then 4:10 and 3:40 in large type. No name. Anyone walking past is the audience.
- Morning announcement in the gym: first the practicum end, then the bus, then what to do today. The order is time.
- Text to a parent: Hi, then the gap, then Can you pick up after 4:10? It assumes the reader knows which student.
- This course also studies longer forms: a novel or a book-length nonfiction book, a feature film or a modern play, poems and songs, short stories, popular nonfiction, and visuals. At least one third of those texts are by Canadian creators. An essay is encouraged.

One gap, three forms

Poster
Heading: Thursday gap. Two times in big type. No greeting. It is for anyone walking past.

Announcement
Time order: first the 4:10 end, then the 3:40 bus, then what to do today.

Parent text
Greeting, then the gap, then a question. It assumes the reader knows the student.

Form and medium

- Form is the kind: poster, announcement, text, and later a novel, a film, a poem, or a proposal.
- Audience factors sit under the choice. A parent already knows the student. A stairwell crowd needs the name. Age and school role matter too.
- Structure is the bones. The poster uses a heading. The announcement uses chronology. The text uses a greeting and a question.
- Medium is the channel. Paper on a wall, a voice in a gym, a phone. A headline belongs to a newspaper. A subject line belongs to a message. Those are medium habits.

Key terms

form

The kind of text, such as a poster, a story, a poem, a letter, or a proposal, chosen for a job.

medium

The channel that carries the text, such as paper on a wall, a voice in the gym, or a phone message.

Form and purpose

- The poster wins for a crowd that is moving. It loses if you need a yes from one parent.
- The announcement wins for everyone in the gym at one moment. A late arrival misses it, because a voice leaves with the speaker.
- The parent text wins for a ride. It would be a strange stairwell poster, because Hi assumes a person.
- A novel or a film is on the course list because some jobs, a long life or a performed scene, need more room than a poster.

Three versions of a text

- Poster: form for a moving crowd, heading as structure, paper on a wall as medium.
- Announcement: form for a room at one time, chronology as structure, voice as medium.
- Parent text: form for one household, greeting plus question as structure, phone as medium.
- Course list: novel or book-length nonfiction, and film or modern play, plus a variety that includes poetry, stories, popular nonfiction, and visuals, with at least one third Canadian.

A jacket in two forms

- Fact: a grey jacket with a red zipper is in the gym lost bin.
- Choose a form for the office and a form for the owner.
- Name the structure and the medium of each.

Review

- Cover the bus versions.
- Say one job a feature film can do with two hours that a four-line poem leaves aside.
- Name one medium feature of a newspaper story, such as a headline, and who that feature serves.