

## WRITING DEVELOPMENT

**RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.**

### Cuban Missiles Crisis

#### 15. Narrative analysis

In an earlier Writing Development exercise, we looked at the conjunctions of time, and how they can be used to describe a sequence/ simple narrative, viz.:

- Plan out the sequence of events/developments you intend to describe, in their best logical order.
- Use that list to 'tell the story', using the most appropriate conjunctions of time and sequence such as: 'First', 'Next', 'After', 'Before', 'Later', 'Initially', 'At last', 'Also', 'In addition', 'Meanwhile', 'Simultaneously', 'Furthermore'.
- Provide some relevant information about each event/development.

This, however, will not produce a GCSE-level 'narrative analysis'. To do that, you need also to:

- Explain the importance/significance in the developing story of each event/development; why was it a key event in the narrative?
- Provide 'proving evidence' which establishes that point.

Let's say you have to write the essay: "Write a narrative account analysing the key events of the Cuban Missile Crisis." Consider the following table, which lists the sequence of events:

1. Use the webpage, and your own ideas and research to fill the gaps, so as to complete the following essay plan:

Conjunction	Event/development	Explain the importance/significance	Proving information?
The first	<b>4 Oct:</b> U-2 spy-plane takes pictures of Missile bases in Cuba.	Places in America as far away as Chicago were in danger.	Experts tell Kennedy he has 10 days before they are operational
Next,	<b>22 Oct:</b> TV address/ B2 bombers mobilised.	.....	[Kennedy quote]
etc.	.....	.....	.....
~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~
Finally,	<b>20 Nov:</b>	End of the crisis	Russian bombers left Cuba, and Kennedy lifted the naval blockade.

2. For each date, summarise the three columns into a 'basic paragraph' of three simple sentences – eg for the first line:

*"A U-2 spy-plane photographed missile bases in Cuba. Cities in America were in danger. The bases would be operational in 10 days."*

Then improve the paragraph using Judith Hochman's ideas, as you practised in an earlier exercise:

- Start with a topic sentence introducing the idea of the paragraph
- Expand sentences by adding factual information
- Vary vocabulary
- Use conjunctions and an appositive
- Explain how this information addresses the question, including proving information
- End with a concluding sentence which directly answers the question

3. Repeat for each line in your grid.

**NOTE: this skill is tailored to the Edexcel exam, but might be useful for the OCR 'Outline how' question.**