

# Dissenting voices

## (part two)



## Learning objective:

To examine how structure supports meaning and to organise ideas coherently and fluently in writing (RAF4, WAF3)

## Learning outcome:

To explore and discuss a poem, then use its structure as the basis for your own poem about the pros and cons of war

## Success criteria:

AF	Level 5 / All students can ...	Level 6 / Most students can ...	Level 7 / Some students can ...
<b>RAF4</b>	Show general awareness of why a text has been organised in the way it has	Consider how a text's structure affects its meaning	Explain how a text could be structured differently
<b>WAF3</b>	Link sentences and paragraphs (or sections) to develop material coherently	Use ways of leading the reader through the text, varying 'signposts' and references, <i>such as 'chained' pronouns and connectives</i>	Organise material coherently and fluently





War is good.

War is bad.



## Smart English: War and Conflict – Dissenting voices (part two)

The order of the pairs of lines is important. The first pair puts forward a positive idea and then questions it. The second puts forward another positive idea and then challenges the reader to 'Show God'. By the third pair, any sense of war having a positive aspect to it has largely disappeared.

The strong end rhymes help to reinforce the 'pairings' of the lines.

### War Exalts

War exalts and cleanses: it lifts man from the **mud!**  
Ask God what he thinks of a bayonet dripping **blood.**

In each pair of lines, the first line is a statement in praise or in support of war and the second answers it with a more critical view.

By War the brave are tested, and cowards are **disgraced!**  
Show God His own image shrapnel'd into **paste.**

Fight till tyrants perish, slay till brutes are **mild!**  
Then go wash the blood off and try to face your **child.**

Imperatives add to the sense of challenge in the poem, which increases in the last two lines.

## Smart English: War and Conflict – Dissenting voices (part two)

**Activity:** Write your own poem about war using the same structure as Harold Begbie uses in 'War Exalts'. To do this you must:

- Write three verses with two lines each. In each verse, the first line must describe a good thing war achieves. The second line must show a bad side of war.
- Decide on the best order for your couplets. Keep your most powerful couplet for the last verse.
- Look at the success criteria below to help you to improve your poem.

### Success criteria

Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
Link lines and verses to develop your poem and make it 'hang together' well	Lead your reader through your poem, varying links, 'signposts' and references, such as pronouns and connectives	Organise your ideas coherently and fluently