

## Year 9 English – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010

### **Language Autobiography**

In Year 9 English you will begin your study of English as a spoken language.

For this piece of work you have to prepare an autobiographical information sheet about yourself and how you use Language. This can be typed or neatly handwritten on A4 paper. Try to present your information sheet in the most interesting way you can. You must carefully check the text's accuracy (spelling, capital letters, grammar, apostrophes, sentences and paragraphing).

**You will be assessed on:**

- a) the understanding you show of how your own language works**
- b) the presentation devices and vocabulary you have used in your information sheet.**

How to create the piece of work?

An autobiography is a piece of writing where the writer tells their reader all about themselves.

Begin by planning:

Write some notes about yourself under these headings:

1. Your names <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What your first name means or where it is from (research if you don't know)</li><li>• What your surname means or where it is from (many names are linked to jobs or particular parts of the country)</li><li>• Any nicknames you have (and where these names come from)</li></ul>	2. Learning to talk <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How old were you when you learned to talk? Or when your brother or sister learned to talk?</li><li>• What were your first words?</li><li>• Did you 'invent' any words of your own? (most people do!)</li></ul>
3. Your accent and dialect: Find out what accent and dialect means <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can you think of any examples of words you use which are special to where you are from? (Give examples)</li><li>• Can you think of any examples of words you use which are special to your age group? (Give examples – NOT swear words)</li></ul>	4. Other languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you speak any other languages?</li><li>• Does anybody else in your family speak other languages?</li><li>• Have you ever tried using codes or other 'fake' languages? Have you heard of languages like Esperanto?</li></ul>
5. Your family <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does everyone in your family use the same accent and dialect? (Do they come from a different part of the country originally?)</li><li>• Do you have names for things in your family or in your village which other people wouldn't understand?</li></ul>	6. Your views <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you think people sound more intelligent if they speak in a certain way?</li><li>• Do you have a favourite accent?</li><li>• Do you change the way you speak depending on the circumstances? (Either the words you use or the style in which you speak?)</li></ul>

Creating the information sheet

Make sure your text is really interesting and tells your teacher something about you. Include as many examples as you can. You could add in illustrations or pictures. You might include a dictionary, which explains your dialect. You might want to put in a map which shows where the different influences on your language come from.

Remember this activity should take you a whole day to prepare so use the time wisely.

Finally, your work needs to be handed in to your English teacher for assessment in the first lesson, so make sure that it is finished and ready for the deadline.

Good Luck.