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Summary

This document contains one sample response for VCE Area of Study Unit 2: Creating and presenting based on the text, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. One of the responses is written in an expository form, the other in a persuasive form. Alongside each response is a series of notes containing a summary of the key elements that make each response strong which may be emulated by students.

In general this document may be useful for,

Students wishing to see a model response and to gain advice on how best to structure a response to a prompt and incorporate ideas of context and text.

SAMPLE RESPONSE 1: EXPOSITORY WRITTEN IN THE FORM OF AN ARTICLE (A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE)

PROMPT: "BY EVADING THE REALITY OF THEIR LIFE, AN INDIVIDUAL WILL INEVITABLY BRING ABOUT THEIR OWN DEMISE."

Reality Check....

Have you ever told a lie? Added some colour to a boring story? Or maybe had one too many to drink so you didn't have to think about those uni exams next week? If you seriously don't believe yourself to be accountable for any of the above, then chances are you are guilty of the exact point I am trying to bring to your attention. At some time or another, we all have something we want to forget or rather not face up to, but by evading the reality of our lives, we can create serious consequences for ourselves and those around us. Don't get me wrong, we all need some relief from the brutality that life can offer. However, the implications that avoiding reality may have are potentially far worse than facing up to it in the first place.

But first, what is reality?? Reality is a state of truth – the perception on an individual towards their being and the world in which they live. Humanity has a subjective perception of reality - it is influenced by the different factors which make up our existence: childhood, education, family, friends and experiences. Each person has their own unique reality, which no other person can fully fathom, no matter how similar their experience may have been. Reality is not static, but constantly evolving. Furthermore, one's subjective reality may differ vastly from objective reality; the latter is the unbiased truth, while the former is one's perception of that truth.

Life can often be hard, but by choosing to avoid reality, or worse, by retreating into a false reality, there can be very serious consequences. By evading reality, one can lose touch with the truth, detrimentally changing a person's life. In extreme cases, an individual may lose their ability to work or live within normal society. Moreover, in their attempt to sever all connections with the cause of their discomfort within their lives, a person may retreat so far into themselves that it is impossible to return. Such is the case in Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire. Blanche Dubois' attempts to block out her painful past results in her loss of position and credibility within society. In order to escape her suffering and insecurities, Blanche turns to alcohol and prostitution. The façade which she creates for herself reflects her yearning to be treated in a manner which reflects her past position in society and upbringing. By painting a false reality of herself she lures other characters into a false understanding of who she is, with tragic consequences. Consequently, whilst an individual will often create a false reality for themselves in order to escape from sufferings within their own life, the consequences of their actions are unlike to benefit them.

Furthermore, when a person chooses to retreat from the hardships and obstacles of their own life, it not only affects them, but those around them. By choosing to block out reality, a person, in many ways, also blocks out those closest to them. Yet, it also leaves the person in question at the mercy of their family and friends, as their inability to see the reality of the world places them in a vulnerable position. Such are the problems faced by those closest to Blanche. Blanche deceives her sister and