

Activity worksheet 1

Activity 1: Write a paragraph in response to the artwork

a) Study the William Barak artwork, *Figures in Possum Skin Cloaks*. Record your first impressions of the artwork here by answering these questions, using brief, point form notes.

• What do you think the artwork is about? _____

• What meaning did you receive from the text? _____

• List some emotions stirred up by the artwork: _____

• Identify two specific features that have had the most significant impact: _____

• Why do you think these features have had this impact? _____

b) Now, write one paragraph, using a formal paragraph structure. Follow the steps and use the labelled sections to help you develop each part of your paragraph.

Your paragraph should begin with a **topic sentence**. This sentence should make a clear, single point about your response to the artwork.

Topic sentence: (use ideas that you wrote in response to one of the first three dot points above as your topic sentence)
For example, 'The artwork seems to be about ...' or 'This artwork had a strong emotional impact on me ...'

Following the topic sentence, present some **details**, facts, descriptions or other evidence from the artwork that is directly relevant to your statement in the topic sentence. These can be given in one or more sentences.

One key detail about the artwork: (use the things you wrote in response to the fourth dot point for this part)
For example, 'The artist's use of colour ...'; 'The repeated shapes ...'

Then there must be an **explanation** of the evidence presented and how it supports the truth of the point you made in your topic sentence. This can be expressed in two or more sentences.

Explanation of one key detail: (use the responses you made to the fifth dot point for this part)

Activity worksheet 2

Activity 2: Write a two-paragraph response to the AIATSIS online exhibition, *A Possum Skin Cloak*

View and read the material, *A Possum Skin Cloak* from the AIATSIS online exhibition. Use the systematic approach from [Activity 1](#) to develop two paragraphs in which you explain your impressions and response to the exhibit. *Note: a transition element has been added to help you link your two paragraphs together and create better cohesion in your written response.*

Topic sentence: (one sentence)

One key detail: (one or more sentences)

Explanation of the key detail: (two or more sentences)

The last sentence of your explanation should provide a **transition** that connects this paragraph to the next. This ensures that your writing has a cohesive structure.

Transition: (one sentence)

A second key detail: (one or more sentences)

Explanation of the second key detail: (two or more sentences)
