

**Write a persuasive response to the question:**

**Should Shakespeare remain on the curriculum?**

Two students began their response to this question. Read their openings and comment on the techniques by answering the questions below.

**Student example 1**

Shakespeare should remain on the curriculum. Is that a joke? Shakespeare bores me to death and every time I walk into the classroom and I see the play set out on the desk I groan with dread. Why is it so boring? Well, for a start, I can't understand a word of what is going on, it's like a different language and my head hurts just looking at the words. I know loads of other books and stuff that we could look at that would at least keep my attention for five minutes, which is five times longer than Shakespeare can ...

**Student example 2**

Shakespeare (or 'the Bard' as he is more affectionately known) has produced the most entertaining plays EVER and even after 400 years he's as fresh as a daisy. If you're after comedy, tragedy or history it's there, if you're young or old there's something for you: Romeo and Juliet's fated teenage love, senile King Lear betrayed by his ungrateful daughters, or, if you like your entertainment a little bit more boisterous, you could 'ride the pants triumphing' in *Anthony and Cleo*. Who could ask for more? So, we shouldn't be considering whether Shakespeare should remain on the curriculum, instead we should be asking, 'Why are we wasting our time with so much other rubbish when we could have so much fun with Will?' ...

**Questions**

1. Which student has a more convincing opening and why?
2. Highlight and annotate any persuasive features you notice. How else could you begin a response to this question?
3. What advice would you give to one of the students? Choose one, and let them know how they could begin their response more effectively.
4. Now in your books draw and complete the table below to plan your own response to the question: **Should Shakespeare remain on the curriculum?**

Structure	Content	Techniques
Opening		
Development		
Ending		