Textual Features in *Brave New World & 1984*

It is important to remember that textual features are its own criterion There are two ways to discuss textual features.

1. **In your topic sentence (and link sentence):**
   *Because the essay topic is asking you **how** – then each topic sentence needs to answer this **how, e.g.***
   *"**through the protagonists….** [insert shared theme or idea]*
   *Or '**the climax of each text** is where [insert shared idea or theme]'*
   *Or '**the way the worlds are described by the director and author** allows audiences to [insert shared theme or idea]';*
   *or '[insert shared theme or idea] **is explored through the ancillary characters in both texts'***

2. Whenever you bring a bit of evidence.

   > **film:** when you discuss an example from the film, describe or explain how the example is **presented** by the director: what film-language is used to present this example?

   > **novel:** when using quotes from BNW, discuss what language or narrative features Huxley might be using to present the example, or that is present in the wider example or scene you are discussing.

Main Textual Features – to use in an introduction / topic sentences

Through characters: *protagonists; main characters; side characters; symbolic/representation characters, relationships between characters; film and language techniques (if you want to write a whole paragraph discussing/comparing how the director & author use language, e.g. to 'present their worlds'.)*

Plot & Structure*:*
> key scenes / events
> introduction/exposition
> climaxes – high points of action;
> reflection points (when characters reflect and bring some new understanding);
> turning points;
> denouements (endings);

Through Settings:
> how they're described, what moods they might create, what they might symbolise or show about the worlds or the themes in the texts (settings are good for discussing language)

Through genre – generic conventions*:*
*> **future technology** (relevant to both, but more to BNW)*
*> **satire** – using dark humour to show the hypocrisy or ridiculousness of our current societies – be they consumerist & pleasure-driven (BNW) or authoritarian/totalitarian (1984).*
*> **surrealism** (1984) – in order to make the viewer question the nature of reality both in the play, but also in their own world; to challenge viewers to question the truths that are*

presented to them in their own societies.

Through film-language*:*
*> **Cinematography**: when discussing a bit of evidence from the film, look at what kind of camera angles and sizes and movement are used and the effect;*
*> **settings** - and how they're described (mise-en-scene); how does the director make the viewer feel like they are constantly being watched?*
> setting: the morphing from one setting to another in a surrealistic way;
*> **time** – skipping forward and backwards, condensing the original narrative.*
*> **acting** if a particular bit of acting helps to convey an idea, then discuss it (good to use actors' names if so);*
*> **sounds** – the constant diegetic background sounds of bombs, helicopters and the incessant facts and figures from the loudspeaker;*
*> **dialogue**: whenever you give a quote from the dialogue, acknowledge who is 'saying' it, and/or mention that it is 'dialogue'.*
*> **lighting**: Consider the use of lighting in key scenes or shots and how they affect audience;*

any others I've missed?

Whenever discussing these features, consider (and ty to briefly discuss) how these features are intended to affect the audience. = *good head-start for next year!*

Through language/writing style*:*
> narration (3rd person omniscient in BNW; the narrator/host who reads parts of Orwell's original 1984).
> symbols 1984 (Winston's mother and sister-; the paperweight; rats; chocolate/soma; the nursery rhymes; music; oranges & lemons; etc. etc.)
> Symbols BNW?
> Foreshadowing & narrative 'hooks';
*> irony & dark humour – in both texts – relates to **satire;***
*> descriptions of nature / the natural world – mostly BNW; one scene in 1984 (see also **settings**), but also **natural human characteristics.***
> imagery: descriptions of the artificial/human world in the language of nature (BNW)
> imagery: insect and hive-mind imagery in BNW
> Huxley's contrapuntal writing style (might need to do some research on this)
> other language and stylistic features (metaphors, poetic conventions, etc.)
> Shakespearian language;
> Newspeak.

Whenever discussing language, consider how these features are intended to affect the audience.

And I am sure I have missed out other features – so don't let this list limit you!