

# Accents

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## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Report

Professional Learning Update

Linguafest 2023

Why HALT?

Sample Reading Assessment Task



# Contents

President’s report .....	1
Professional Learning Update .....	4
Denise Soos Scholarship Report.....	5
Linguafest 2023 .....	6
Why HALT?.....	9
Sample Reading Assessment Task .....	12
Corporate Sponsors .....	14



# President's Report

Janelle Byrne

It has been a privilege for me to be in the role of President and in line with Constitution rules, I will be stepping down as President after serving three consecutive years.

I welcome Enaam Darido as the incoming President and I look forward to providing continued support and contributing to the valuable initiatives MLTA NSW provides for the language teaching and learning community.

MLTA NSW is a strong and united teachers association, because of the dedicated, passionate and hard-working committee who each contribute their skills, expertise, time and dedication to work collaboratively on the many and varied initiatives of the association. I thank the executive members and all committee members who have worked together to coordinate events, professional learning and support in so many ways for the benefit of our members, their students and learning communities.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to new committee members, following the AGM held on 19 June 2023.

Our 2023/24 committee members are:

## President

Enaam Darido

## Vice-President

Janelle Byrne

## Treasurer

Mary-Anne Bianchin

## Ordinary Committee

Gina Doukas

Gillian Cordy

Enri Parolin

An Ngo

Sophia Higgins

Lyndall Franks

Catherine Elliott

## Media Liaison Officer

Sana Zreika

## Secretary

Miyako Matsui

## PD Officer

Anthea Wawryka

Varsha Daithannkar

Jannan Assaad

Coreena Allen

Mala Mehta OAM

Nada Gemayal

Swati Doshi

Wafa Saboune

## President's Report

Following our AGM, Sana Zreika led us in a virtual PL session to become familiar with the **Modern Languages K–10 Syllabus**. Participants had the opportunity to unpack the syllabus and prepare for implementation in 2024. Teachers interacted in break out rooms to align outcomes to activities and were provided with resources including a sample assessment notification which aligns with the new outcomes and demonstrates how the skills can be combined and assessed. We aim to continue on from this session with some Primary and Secondary workshops for members to collaborate and share teaching and learning programs and assessments.

In Term 1 this year we engaged the internationally renowned presenter, Joe Dale to present a webinar on the **“Possibilities and Practicalities of Chat GPT in Language Teaching and Learning”**. Feedback from the 70 participants was very positive. There were many take-aways and lots of discussion in the chat. I am sure many of the ideas presented have been implemented by participants. Thank you to Anthea Wawryka, our PD Officer for coordinating valuable PL opportunities.

The 17<sup>th</sup> year of **Linguafest short film competition** has been launched and we hope to see some **“history” (theme)** being made this year. Make sure to incorporate a **“necklace” as the signature item**. This initiative continues to be a wonderful celebration and showcase for the passion teachers and students have for languages. Thank you to our Linguafest convenor, Sophia Higgins, especially for initiating the Plurilingual category, now in the second year after its successful uptake last year. Films are due 15 September 2023.

MLTA NSW is proud to have offered a range of grants, awards and scholarships for both teachers and students this year.

**Our Teacher Mentor Program** has been operating since 2021 and continues to have an ongoing impact, supporting mentees as well as building leadership capacity in the voluntary mentors. It provides an opportunity for everyone in the program to collaborate and improve, share and develop their practice. The teacher mentor program also provides teachers working towards Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher accreditation to build leadership capacity which otherwise may not be possible if they are sole language educators in their own school. Thank you to Coreena Allen for leading this initiative so well.

**Denise Soos Scholarships** are awarded to students in Year 10 who intend to study a Language in Stage 6. The recipients receive a scholarship which is to be used for resources to support their language studies. We received 18 applications and awarded 5 scholarships to the recipients who are studying the languages at:

Abbotsleigh – German Continuers

Northmead High School and Secondary College of Languages – Turkish Continuers

Knox Grammar School - French Continuers

Monte Sant Angelo Mercy College – Indonesian Continuers

St Paul's Catholic College – French Continuers and Italian Beginners

## President's Report

This year we have offered three grants of \$1000 each to members to support their attendance at the **2023 AFMLTA International Languages Conference in Perth in July.**

Penelope Johnstone, Oatley Public School – Italian

Charlotte Fauchon, St George Christian School – Chinese

Grant recipients have agreed to share their key ideas from the Conference with members via our *Accents* journal or at a future professional learning event. I look forward to meeting up with the recipients and other NSW members who are attending the AFMLTA conference in Perth. I am sure NSW will be well represented at the conference.



*Right: Incoming MLTA NSW President Enaam Darido with Charlotte Fauchon at the 2023 AFMLTA Conference in Perth*



### PTC Outstanding Professional Service Award

We celebrated at the Professional Teachers' Council Awards Dinner in February 2023 in which Sophia Higgins (left) received the Outstanding Professional Service Award in recognition of the voluntary work undertaken as a committee member and Linguafest convenor over an extended period of time.

### Outstanding Languages Educator Award

This recognises the contributions that MLTA NSW members make to high-quality teaching and learning of languages in schools. We aim to award a winner in each category, Language Program Advocacy and High-Quality Teaching and Learning. The award promotes our profession, celebrates strong role models of excellent practice, and increases the visibility of the importance of learning languages and cultures. Stay tuned to our weekly emails to hear more when this initiative goes live to members in Term 3 this year.

We are planning our professional learning events for the year ahead to be a mixture of online and face-face events to ensure we can continue to support all members and a healthy membership in 2023–24. From Term 3 2023, we work with confidence towards providing NESAC accredited PD through our membership with the Professional Teachers' Council NSW.

To keep connected with the work of the AFMLTA and MLTA NSW we encourage you to follow AFMLTA and MLTA NSW on Facebook and/or Twitter.

# Professional Learning Update

Anthea Warwryka, MLTA committee

It was a busy semester for Professional Learning in the MLTA NSW. We were fortunate enough in Term 1 to welcome Joe Dale to talk us through AI. His webinar “Possibilities and Practicalities of Chat GPT in Language Teaching and Learning” was a first step for many of us in this world. Joe presented to over 70 members about how he uses Chat GPT in the language’s classroom, and many of us will agree that there were many take-aways we could immediately implement in our own schools.

In Semester 2, following the AGM, Sana Zreika helped familiarise members with the new Modern Languages K–10 Syllabus. It was an opportunity to understand the new outcomes and prepare for implementation in 2024. There was rich discussion had in the break out rooms and Sana had prepared several activities for members to deepen their understandings. Feedback was incredibly positive following the session and we hope to continue with some sessions for both Primary and Secondary teachers in Semester 2.

As we look forward to the second half of 2023, please keep an eye on the newsletter for upcoming Professional Learning opportunities. We also have the opportunity to start to offer accredited PL for MLTA NSW members and I will be working hard to try and accomplish this soon. If you feel that you would like to offer a session to our members (accredited or not), please contact me with your ideas and a rough timeline ([pl@mltansw.asn.au](mailto:pl@mltansw.asn.au)).



Modern Language Teachers Association of NSW Inc

*Many languages  
one voice...  
bringing Language  
teachers together*

## Follow Us ...



The MLTA of NSW is a dedicated group of educators who are committed to furthering Languages Education in NSW.

The association covers a range of languages and sectors. We are dedicated to the study of Languages in NSW and enthusiastically work to support NSW language teachers.



## Denise Soos Scholarships

MLTA NSW received 18 nominations for the Denise Soos Scholarships for Year 10 students who intend to study a language in Stage 6 2023. We were pleased to award 5 scholarships of \$500 each to support students for resources for the language studied or as a contribution to an in-country experience.

The quality of all the applications was extremely high and the selection panel had great difficulty in determining the recipients of the 2023 awards. Congratulations to these students who will be awarded their scholarship at the beginning of the 2023 school year.

Sally Liu

German Continuers from Abbotsleigh

Damla Melis Alca

Turkish Continuers from Northmead High School and Secondary College of Languages Arthur Phillip

Cara Harris

Indonesian Continuers from Monte Sant Angelo Mercy College

Ella Suters

French Continuers and Italian Beginners from St Paul's Catholic College Booragul

Aiden Kwok

French Continuers from Knox Grammar School

We wish all students who applied the best in their future language studies.

# Be Part of Linguafest History!

Sophia Higgins, Linguafest Convenor



Are you looking for a last-minute film idea for your class? It is not too late to start creating a film for the 2023 Linguafest competition. We would love to receive an entry from you!

This article includes a variety of ideas for you and your students to consider. All of these would benefit from storyboarding and collaboration if time allows. They also lend themselves to critical and creative thinking. There will no doubt be many riveting discussions in language classrooms across the state.

Although a fascinating theme, history can at times lend itself to negativity, wars, ill-treatment of others and the like. Please keep in mind that all films must be G-Rated. They must not include violence, offensive language, and racist remarks. If in doubt, ask yourself. Should Kindergarten students be watching this?

**Creating a 2-minute film with the above constraints may be a challenge but it is achievable. Here are some ideas to get your classroom conversation started.**

## The history of your language and cultures

We all know and appreciate that learning a language goes hand in hand with learning about the cultures, history, and geography of the associated countries. Your film could:

- be a documentary or mockumentary. *How the (K Pop Singer / band) became famous*
- depict a living situation. *The Indian wedding that stopped a city*
- recount the life of a famous person related to your language. *A Day in the Life of Mad King Ludwig II of Bavaria*



## Linguafest 2023

### The history of an item related to your language's culture

Concentrating on one small (but significant) aspect may work for your class. Consider food, inventions, and art.

- Food – *Why do the French eat Escargots?*
- Invention – *The development of the first Manga comic.*
- Art – *The inspiration behind a Frida Kahlo painting from Frida's perspective*

### A history lesson OR a language lesson about history

Create a film about a school event or something that happened in a lesson.

- Do the students stay in the classroom, or do they go back in time?
- What is the complication of the story? Make it significant.
- Create interesting characters.

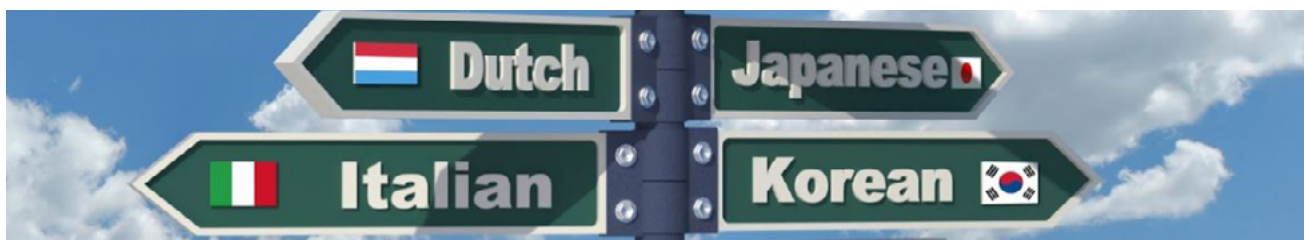
### Last month, last week and yesterday!

Given the depth of possibilities on offer from the theme of history, if you go down this more 'straightforward' route, ensure it is as rich and interesting as possible. Develop your characters well and ensure you have a strong narrative.

### Delve deeper when considering your angle

Students could potentially develop the setting and plot of their film based on one or more of these reflective questions:

- Describe your first memorable encounter with another culture.
- Describe a first experience with culture shock. How did you get past this?
- What place in the world would you like to discover? Set your film here.
- When you say what interests you about other countries. What specifically interests you?



## Linguafest 2023



2022 Finalist - Stage 5  
Winner - Tough Times Zor...



2022 Finalist Stage 5 Most  
Inspiring Un dono generoso...



2022 Finalist Stage 5 Most  
Original The Keys to...

## Linguafest Submission Tips

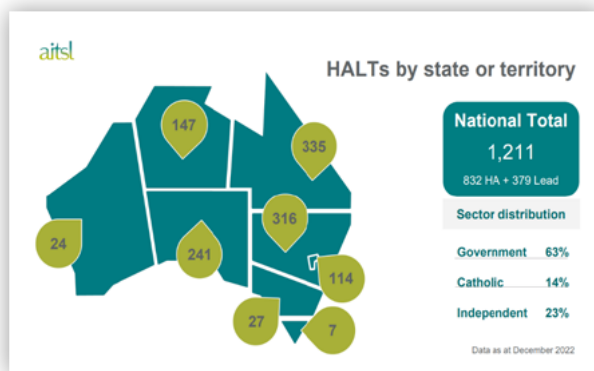
Before submitting your film, please ensure you have done the following:

- **Your film must be 2 minutes maximum.** Films exceeding 2 minutes will be disqualified.
- **Films must be G-Rated.** As primary schools participate in Linguafest, Kindergarten (4–6-year-old), students may watch the screening. Please ensure your film does not contain violence, drug use, racist remarks, and bad language.
- **You must include English subtitles.** These need to be legible.
- You can only submit **one film per language, per stage.**
- **Have a strong narrative and interesting characters.** Consider storyboarding and brainstorming character traits with your class.
- **English is not counted as a language.** Keep English to a minimum or avoid it altogether. Linguafest promotes the use of the languages other than English that our students are learning.
- There is **no limit to the number of languages** in your Plurilingual film.
- Languages in Plurilingual films **do not** have to be represented equally.
- **Please submit each film with an entry form.** These can be accessed on the MLTANSW website. <https://www.mltansw.asn.au/linguafest>
- **Should you have any questions, please contact the Linguafest Convenor at linguafest@mltansw.asn.au**
- **The final submission date for films is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

# Why HALT?

## An Ngo, Lansvale Public School

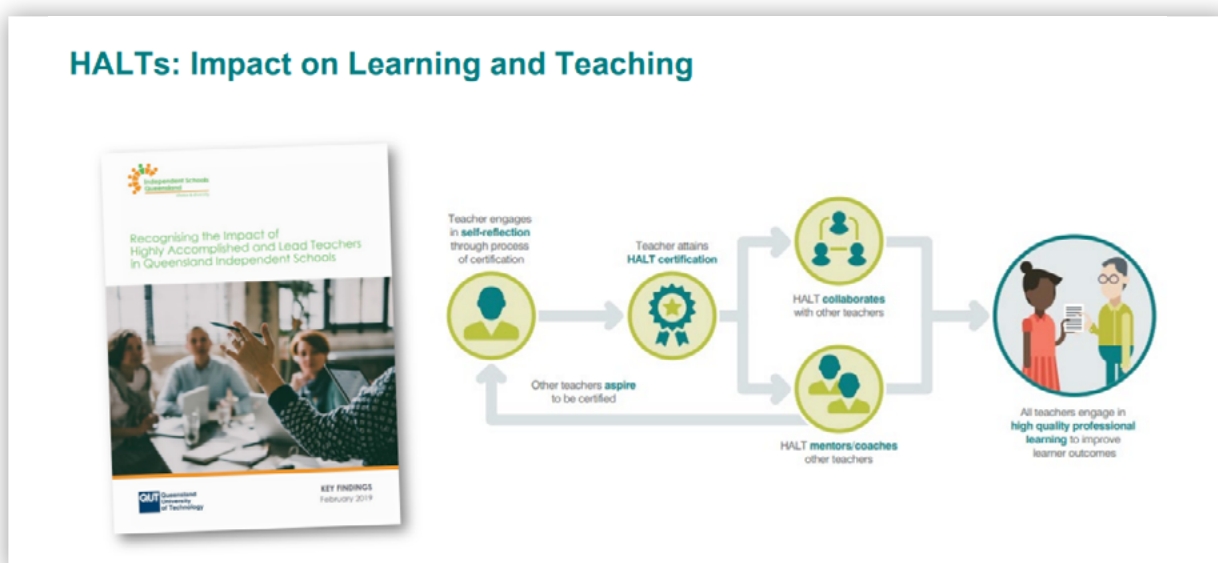
**Xin chào! I am a Vietnamese teacher from Lansvale Public School and have recently achieved the distinguished Highly Accomplished Accreditation. It is with great excitement that I share my journey with you today, as I firmly believe that numerous exceptional language teachers and leaders will derive immense benefits when embarking on this transformative path.**



Source: <https://www.aitsl.edu.au/standards/highly-accomplished>

### MY JOURNEY

Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers (HALT) Accreditation is a cross-sectoral, consistent, and reliable appraisal of teacher expertise which is strengthened by the use of external assessors and moderation by NESA. My journey started in late 2021 and it took me 10 months to complete. Initially, looking at the standards for HALT, I naively thought that it was easy. However, it became evident to me that language teachers face unique challenges in meeting these standards. Being the first primary language teacher pursuing this, I struggled. I am extremely lucky to have amazing colleagues, awesome mentors and one of the greatest principals on this planet who gave me constant encouragement and provided full support. I am not going to lie: THIS JOURNEY IS HARD, yet the rewards it bestows are truly REMARKABLE and worth every effort invested. Let me tell you how.



Source: <https://www.aitsl.edu.au/standards/highly-accomplished>

## Why HALT?

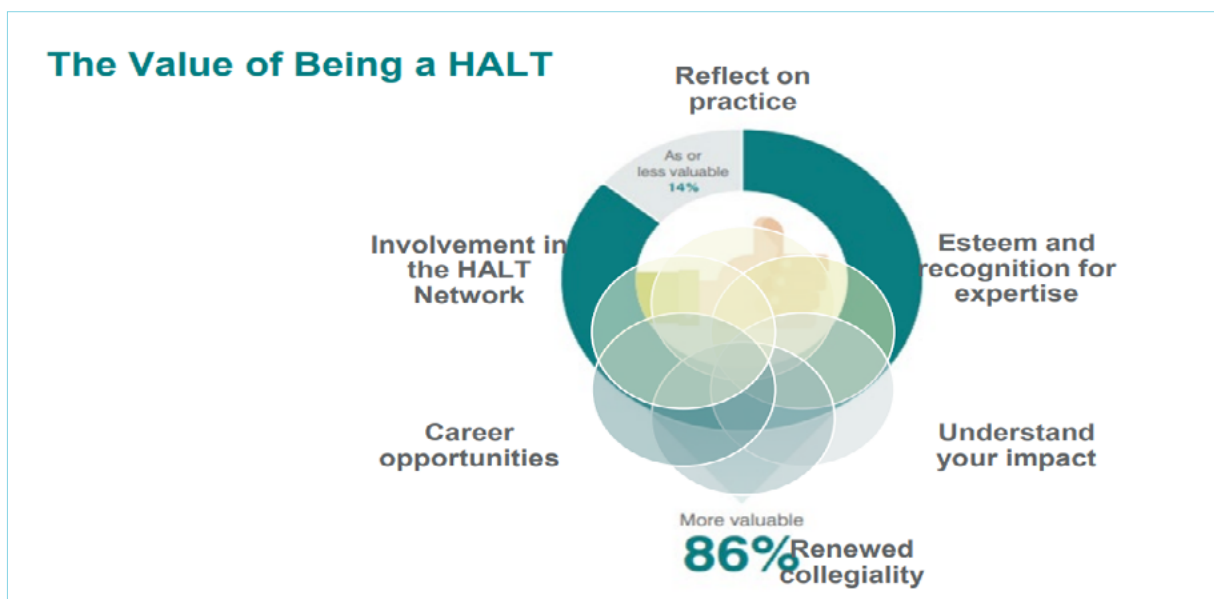
### RATIONALE

*Why HALT?* I know there is a considerable multitude of exceptional teachers who possess the ability to substantiate their impact without relying on this recognition. However, the process and benefits **further empower teachers to continue to lead and build the capacity of colleagues** within their schools and networks. The HALT accreditation process is a powerful means of professional development. As you engage in the process, you will clearly see the “gaps” in your knowledge and teaching practices.

As an accredited HALT, I have observed and experienced first-hand the empowering nature of this process, enabling educators to **optimise student learning outcomes** within their own classrooms. This accreditation fostered my engagement through an authentic journey of reflection and practice refinement, and extended my influence, benefitting students’ learning and wellbeing across various grades, schools and even the broader education community.

Pursuing higher levels of accreditation equip language teachers with **advanced knowledge and expertise**. It exposes you to the latest research, linguistic theories, and pedagogical approaches, equipping you with the tools to deliver instruction that is both effective and engaging. By deepening your understanding of language and its nuances, you can inspire your students to become proficient communicators, fostering a love for languages that extends beyond the classroom.

Pursuing higher levels of accreditation opens up a **world of opportunities** for language teachers. I have had the privilege and gained opportunities to work with amazing teachers and leaders across sectors in mentoring programs, conferences and curriculum development, shaping the direction of language education at a larger scale.



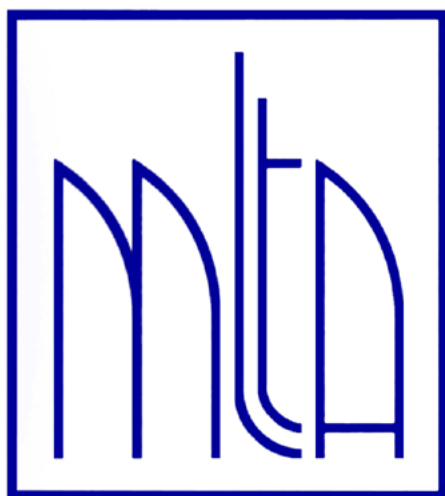
Source: <https://www.aitsl.edu.au/standards/highly-accomplished>

## Why HALT?

One would ask “Why should I do extra work to just get a piece of paper?”. HALT Accreditation serves as a validation of your exemplary practice. Hence, you should not need to do anything “extra” apart from showcasing all the great things that you have already been doing

From my experience, the greatest barriers you will face are your *self-motivation* and *self-doubt*. Let us recognise and appreciate the tireless efforts of outstanding language teachers by embracing this journey and encouraging colleagues to pursue this wonderful accolade. If I can do it, so CAN YOU!!!

All diagrams are sourced from **Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership** (AITSL) <https://www.aitsl.edu.au/>



## ABOUT US

The MLTA of NSW Committee is comprised of a dedicated group of educators who are committed to furthering Languages Education in NSW.

The Committee members cover a range of languages and sectors. The Committee is dedicated to the study of Languages in NSW and enthusiastically works together to support NSW language teachers. The Committee is keen to provide initiatives including competitions and professional development workshops relevant to teachers' needs

# An Example of a Reading Assessment Task

Marina Anokhina, Secondary College of Languages /  
NSW School of Languages

I would like to share one of the assessment tasks – Reading and Responding – I designed for 2022 HSC Russian Continuers Trial paper at the Secondary College of Languages.

**Topic:** Arts and Entertainment (The Russian-speaking Communities)

### Outcomes to be assessed

#### Reading

- 3.1 conveys the gist of texts and identifies specific information
- 3.2 identifies the tone, purpose, context and audience
- 3.3 summarises the main ideas
- 3.4 compares and contrasts aspects of texts

**Read the text, then answer in ENGLISH the question that follows.**

“Импрессионизм – моя жизнь” в ЦМИИ

В одном из главных музеев города – Центральном музее изобразительных искусств (ЦМИИ) – в течение двух месяцев впервые пройдет выставка под названием «Импрессионизм – моя жизнь». Более 30 полотен Моне, Дега, Ренуара, Сарджента и других художников волшебным образом оживут под музыку на стенах музея. Зрители станут активными участниками интерактивного шоу. Они будут сидеть у лягушатника Ренуара, гулять по саду Моне, кружиться с голубыми танцовщицами Дега, наблюдать за игрой в шахматы Сарджента. Поклонникам импрессионистов повезет увидеть всю палитру, в прямом смысле слова.

А какое в музее кафе! Борщ, окрошка, пирожки с мясом, Бефстроганов, торт “Наполеон”. Всех посетителей угостят прохладительными напитками.

У музея очень удачные часы работы, с 10.30 до 20.30 без перерыва на обед и выходных. Но нужно помнить, что в связи с ковидными ограничениями, на выставку попадут только посетители, прошедшие вакцинацию.

По предварительным подсчетам, мероприятие привлечет более 25 000 посетителей, что на 5000 больше, по сравнению с предыдущим годом. Чтобы избежать многометровой очереди в кассу, покупайте билеты заранее по Интернету. Скидки предоставляются студентам и пенсионерам.

Помимо выставки, в музее также профессиональные гиды, мастер-классы для детей и взрослых, книжная акция, и другие мероприятия.

При содействии городской администрации билет в музей даст вам бесплатный проезд в этот день на общественном транспорте. Обязательно приходите к нам!

## Question

How does the writer of this article persuade the readers to attend the Central Museum of Fine Arts? In your answer, refer to both content and use of language. 5 marks

Marking Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of different ways the article persuades the readers to attend the Central Museum of Fine Arts, with detailed references to both content and language.</li> </ul>	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates a thorough understanding of different ways the article persuades the readers to attend the Central Museum of Fine Arts, with references to both content and language.</li> </ul>	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates some understanding of different ways the article persuades the readers to attend the Central Museum of Fine Arts, with references to content and/or use of language.</li> </ul>	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates a limited understanding of different ways the article persuades the readers to attend the Central Museum of Fine Arts.</li> </ul>	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies one piece of relevant information</li> </ul>	1

## Sample answer

The writer of the article persuades/encourages the public to attend the exhibitions by using statistical information – convenient opening hours (“10.30 **утра** - 8.30 **вечера**”) and a good number of paintings (“более 30 полотен”). The exhibition will cater for a variety of people’s interests (“профессиональные гиды, мастер-классы для детей и взрослых, книжная акция”).

The article also includes the number of attendees (“более 50 000”) which is growing in comparison with the previous year, so it shows the readers that it must be worthwhile visiting. The museum café offers delicious food (“Борщ, окрошка, пирожки с мясом, Бефстроганов, торт “Наполеон”).

The writer of the article uses promising, inviting tone and imperative sentences (“...покупайте билеты”, “...приходите к нам”). The fact that there will be free light refreshments, discounts for students and seniors, and free travel by public transport, might also entice people to attend. The use of modal verb (“должны помнить”) is important to remember about the COVID restrictions. The words of positive connotation (“поклонникам повезет”, “удачные часы”, “обязательно”) contribute to the inviting and persuading tone.

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- Keen to find out how to use Chatgpt in your teaching?
- Need some help with HSC and/or IBDP school-based assessment?





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## sanako Sanako's language teaching technology now available in Australia

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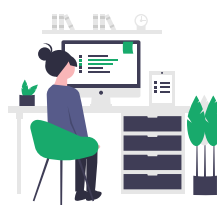
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## Affiliations

- Supported by the Professional Teachers' Council NSW (PTC NSW)
- Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers' Association (AFMLTA)
- The Federation Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV)



Modern Language Teachers Association of NSW Inc.

PO Box 699 Lidcombe NSW 1825

Web: [www.mltansw.asn.au](http://www.mltansw.asn.au)

