

Text Structure and Language Features: Example 2

Text Structure - Factual (historical) recount

Includes a setting and main characters involved in events

Record of events

Statement of significance

Reorientation

JOHN F KENNEDY (JFK)

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born in 1917 in Brookline, Massachusetts, USA. He was the son of Joseph P Kennedy and the brother of Robert and Edward. During World War II he served in the navy.

He attended Harvard University and graduated in 1940. In 1953 he married Jacqueline Bouvier and they later had two children.

In 1946 he was elected to the House of Representatives as a Democrat and in 1953 he entered the Senate.

JFK was elected president of the USA in 1960 when he was 43. He was the first Roman Catholic president and the second youngest president in history. He campaigned strongly for civil rights, education and equal rights for black Americans. He is also remembered for his work in foreign affairs, such as the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962.

JFK was assassinated in Dallas, Texas in 1963.

Language Features

Use of word families to build information, e.g. House of Representatives, Democrat, Senate, president

Use of action verbs, e.g. served, graduated, entered

Use of past tense as in examples above

Use of adverbial phrases of time to say when events took place, e.g. in 1917, in 1940

Use of conjunctions, e.g. and

Use of passive voice, e.g. was born, was elected

Use of noun groups to build up descriptions, e.g. the second youngest president

Use of John F Kennedy, JFK or 'he' as the beginning focus of many clauses (grammatical theme)