Feature Article Assignment

TASK:
You are to write a feature article on a topical issue.
Some ideas you could use are:
• An issue that is important to you. (It could be global warming, bullying in schools, the need for better recreational facilities for teenagers)
• The life and career of a sports person. (This could be the life and career of a person who was busted for drug taking)
• How the future will be different for teenagers.

YOU WILL NEED TO:
1. Decide on your topic (this will be done in class).
2. Conduct some research on your topic. You will need to understand what point of view you will be taking. (For example, you could look at how violent video games have resulted in more violence towards people, or how punishment for assault isn’t hard enough).
3. Draft your feature article. You will need to make sure you are using persuasive language to convince your audience of your point of view.
4. Plan out your feature article - while it doesn’t have to be completed on a computer, this will give you an advantage because it allows you to use media and correct things as you go. Layouts are extremely important!
5. Include any photos or diagrams as necessary. Include captions and references for these photos.
6. NO CUT AND PASTE!! Remember - this is an opinionated piece, so it has to reflect your opinion on the topic.

SOME IDEAS I COULD WRITE ABOUT:
## Marking Criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature Article Criteria</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structural features:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Used features such as headings, subheadings, dot points, photos, captions, diagrams, paragraphs and columns.</td>
<td>/5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Language features:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Used different types of persuasive language</td>
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<td>3. Used consistent tense</td>
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<td>4. Used a variety of sentence types and structures.</td>
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<td>5. Have created a ‘tone’ that shows your point of view.</td>
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<td><strong>Writing:</strong></td>
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<td>6. Information is relevant to topic.</td>
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<td>7. Writing ‘flows’ and makes sense.</td>
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<td>8. Writing shows an opinion of the author and is communicated to the reader.</td>
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<td>9. Arguments are justified and makes sense.</td>
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<td>10. Writing appeals to target audience.</td>
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<td><strong>Proofreading and editing:</strong></td>
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<td>11. Writing is edited for spelling and punctuation.</td>
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<td>12. Writing is edited for grammar.</td>
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**TOTAL /25**
HERE IS SOME PLANNING THINGS TO HELP YOU OUT...

BRAINSTORM SOME POSSIBLE TOPICS YOU COULD CHOOSE:

NOW, TAKE ONE OF THESE TOPICS AND START TO BRAINSTORM IDEAS ABOUT THE TOPIC
STEP 3... WHAT POINT OF VIEW ARE YOU TAKING?

FOR EXAMPLE; IF YOU WERE GOING TO LOOK AT DRUGS IN SPORT. YOU COULD TAKE THE OPINION THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY HORRIBLE AND ALL SPORTSPERSONS WHO USE DRUGS SHOULD HAVE A LIFE TIME BAN. OR, YOU MIGHT BE OF THE OPINION THAT THE RULES SURROUNDING SPORTS PEOPLE AND DRUGS IS TOO HARSH...

IF YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE THE FIRST POINT OF VIEW, THEN YOU WOULD INCLUDE EXAMPLES OF SPORTS PEOPLE WHO HAVE ONLY TAKEN DRUGS IN ORDER TO WIN. IF YOU WERE OF THE SECOND POINT OF VIEW, THEN YOU WOULD ONLY INCLUDE EXAMPLES OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN DRUGS, BUT FOR A MEDICAL REASON AND THEN FOUND OUT THAT THE SUBSTANCE WAS BANNED.

MY POINT OF VIEW ON MY TOPIC IS:

THE REASON I FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT IT IS:

STEP 4... THE RESEARCH

THINK ABOUT THE BRAINSTORMING YOU DID EARLIER. FROM THIS YOU CAN GENERATE A SERIES OF KEYWORDS TO HELP DIRECT YOUR INVESTIGATION. THIS IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS WHAT INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS DO.

KEYWORDS:
DON’T FORGET TO RECORD YOUR NOTES! THE TREE DIAGRAM IN THE LIBRARY IS THE BEST ONE FOR THIS.
DRAFT YOUR FEATURE ARTICLE - USE THE PROMPTS BELOW TO HELP YOU OUT.

**INTRODUCTION:**
Start out with a punchy first sentence to interest your readers. Using a persuasive technique here will really help.

Have you included what the topic is about?

**MAIN BODY:**
Here is where you start to reveal the 'story' or investigation. You might need to separate your information into subheadings.
CONCLUSION:
This to be punchy as well. Sometimes you might need to include extra information for people to find out more about your topic.
LAYOUTS  THESE ARE REALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE FEATURE ARTICLE. REMEMBER, IT HAS TO INTEREST YOUR READER, CATCH THEIR ATTENTION AND BE RELATED IN SOME WAY TO THE TOPIC YOU ARE WRITING ABOUT.

WHAT PHOTOS, DIAGRAMS OR OTHER GRAPHIC MATERIAL COULD YOU INCLUDE?

REFERENCED THESE AS WELL IF THEY ARE NOT YOU OWN.

THOUGHT ABOUT HEADINGS? SOMETHING CATCHY?

WHAT ABOUT THE BORDER? USED COLUMNS?

PLAY AROUND WITH A FEW LAYOUTS FIRST SO YOU KNOW WHERE THINGS ARE GOING TO GO...