**LISTICLES**

1. **A Portmanteau word is a word made from two other words eg. ‘brunch’ (breakfast and lunch). Can you think of any other portmanteau words?**
2. **Listicles is a portmanteau word. What two words does it come from and what sort of writing do you think it will describe?**

**3. Read the following text:**

**What you need to know about 'listicles'**

1 On the internet, more and more articles are written as lists. They are known as 'listicles'. I'm sure you've seen them. There are even whole websites containing nothing but listicles. Is the very fabric of written culture coming apart? Is global prose dissolving into bite-sized jokey paragraphs? Is it because the listicle taps into some deep pleasure centre of the mind? Are lists a form of literary crack?

2 Psychologically, the listicle is seductive because it promises to condense any subject into a manageable number of discrete facts. When you embark on reading an ordinary article, you have no way of knowing how many things it will tell you. Maybe fifteen, maybe two. But with a listicle, you know that each line will contain one entire idea.

4 I'll tell you a secret. A listicle is much easier to write than a regular article. You just have to think of each little bit, and you're free of the obligations to a) arrange them in a convincing sequence or to b) deploy all the logical 'connecting language' that sticks them together. It's very relaxing.

5 A listicle is easier to read than an article because there is no thesis.

6 A listicle feels more democratic than a hierarchically structured argument, as well as more in tune with a conception of history and the world as just one damn thing after another. The foundational text of Protestantism was a listicle nailed to a church door: Martin Luther's "95 Theses" posted at Wittenberg. So it makes sense that in our culture, which makes a fetish of anti-authoritarianism, the listicle should be everywhere.

7 Lists are not necessarily anti-literary. If they lack complex structure, that lack is sometimes precisely the point. Umberto Eco has even published a book-length listicle of lists, *The Infinity of Lists*

Adapted from an article written in *The Guardian* by Steven Poole

*(Adapted from https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/nov/12/listicles-articles-written-lists-steven-poole*

**4. Sum up what the text tells us about listicles.**

**5. Read the following examples of listicles**

**Banksy's -** *I will Not Rebel,*

**Slutwalk's -** *How to Prevent Rape,*

**#EverydayLoveEXO's -** *365 Reasons Why I Love You -*

**(Listicle 1) I will Not Rebel – Banksy**

“I will not rebel and stand up against any authority
I will keep consuming endlessly
I will consume even more in a recession that I didn’t produce because I am told that I need to get the economy back on track
I will continue to believe everything the media portrays
I will abide by and accept all political regulations even though I didn’t vote on them
I will continue to work longer hours and accept higher domestic bills
I will continue to be brainwashed by the false needs that advertising presents me
I will not protest in any form
I will continue to accept wars and poverty
I will continue to be governed by a rich minority and will accept corruption
I will continue to believe that I cannot make a change
I will continue to suppress the characteristics of myself so that I continue to fit into this materialistic society.
I will not stand up for what I know is right.
I will continue to argue that this is just the way it is.
I will continue to do what I’m told.

Signed: . .you . . . .”

**(Listicle 2) How to Prevent Rape – Slutwalk**

If a woman is jogging, DON’T rape her.
If a woman looks like your ex-girlfriend, DON’T rape her.
If a woman is asleep in her bed, DON’T rape her.
If a woman is asleep in your bed, DON’T rape her.

If a woman is wearing a short skirt, DON’T rape her.
If a woman is in a coma, DON’T rape her.
If a woman changes her mind in the middle of or about a particular activity, DON’T rape her.

If a woman is drunk, DON’T rape her.
If a woman is not really a woman, but a child, DON’T rape her.
If your daughter is watching TV, DON’T rape her.
If you break into a house and find a woman there, DON’T rape her.

Don’t put drugs in people’s drinks in order to rape them.

If you pull over to help a woman with car problems, remember NOT to rape her!

NEVER open an unlocked door or window uninvited.

If you are in an elevator and a woman gets in, DON’T rape her!

When you see a woman walking alone, DON'T rape her!

If a woman is doing her laundry, DON'T rape her.

ALWAYS BE HONEST WITH PEOPLE! Don’t pretend to be a caring friend in order to gain the trust of someone you want to rape. Consider telling them you plan to rape them. If you don’t communicate your intentions, the other person may take that as a sign that you do not plan to rape them

USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM! If you are not able to stop yourself from assaulting people, ask a friend to stay with you while you are in public.

CARRY A WHISTLE! If you are worried you might rape someone “on accident” you can give them the whistle, so they can blow it if you do.

ALWAYS REMEMBER: if you didn’t ask permission and didn't respect the answer the first time, you are committing a crime.

**(Listicle 3) *365 Reasons Why I Love You* -** #**EverydayLoveEXO**

1. The way I can just be myself
2. The way you make me smile
3. The way you smile
4. The way you look at me
5. How you tell me I am beautiful no matter what
6. The way you smell
7. The way you make my heart melt
8. The way you make me smile even if I am crying
9. How my hand fits perfectly in yours
10. How cute you are
11. How you write me poems
12. The way you try to help me fix my problems
13. The fact that you live one street away from me
14. Because you allow me to be independent
15. You encourage me
16. You make me proud
17. You make me feel special
18. You make me feel confident
19. You make me laugh
20. How comfortable you make me feel
21. The memories we share
22. How you put up with my moodiness
23. How you put up with me wanting to take a million pictures
24. How you actually like taking pictures with me
25. The way you kiss me
26. The way you touch me
27. The way you play with my hair
28. The way you put your arm around me
29. The way you care more about me then you care about yourself
30. How we can be silly around each other
31. How we hardly ever fight
32. How I can tell you anything and everything
33. The way you can keep a secret
34. How you keep me warm when I am cold
35. How you waited to kiss me until the time was right
36. When I am with you the whole world stops
37. How you love all of my imperfections
38. Yet you still think I am perfect
39. The way you tell me you love me
40. How I instantly feel better when I hear your voice
41. Because you love me with your heart
42. How you act the same around your friends

**6. Discuss the three texts:**

a) How would you translate 'I will' in the first text? What is the tone of this text?

b) What is the second text denouncing? Do you think it works?

c) Why are 365 reasons given?

d) How do the three texts match the definition of listicles given in the text “What you need to know…” Is there anything you would like to add to this?

**7. Writing task: write your own listicle. It can be satirical, outraged, political, romantic…**

**6. Read the following articles about "listicles":**

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/the-university-of-central-florida-forum/an-open-letter-to-list-articles_b_4268725.html>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yolanda-reid-chassiakos/8-reasons-to-avoid-listic_b_4981787.html>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/09/things-id-like-my-sons-to-know_n_1867992.html>