

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

McCarthyism, 1950-54

16. Importance I – from results to importance

Many GCSE students, asked to compare the importance of an event or development, will simply list its results, as though their importance is self-evident.

It is not: you have to list the results, **and then explain** why/how/whether they are important/unimportant.

Adjectives of importance

Key phrases to use will be: “as a result...”, “therefore...”, “consequently...”, “because of this...”

Particularly, two sentences you will be using a lot, are:

- THIS WAS [*considerably, hugely, indispensably, particularly, profoundly, very*] IMPORTANT BECAUSE...
- THIS WAS OF [*inconsequential, lesser, limited, little, minor, slight, some*] IMPORTANCE BECAUSE...

1. I have listed the ‘*modifiers of importance*’ (words in italics) in alphabetical order; reorder them in order of size.

2. Consider the following table, which lists some results of the McCarthy Scare. Fill the gaps, so as to end up with a completed essay plan.

Note the importance of the ‘this led to’ arrow (‘→’) in the explanations:

| Result | Factual description | Modifier | Explanation of importance | Proving information |
|----------------|--|---------------------|--|--|
| Hollywood 10 | | <i>profoundly</i> | → Blacklisted → media terrorised → public fear | 300 actors, screenwriters, artists, civil rights activists scientists and celebrities were accused and blacklisted |
| Lavender Scare | | <i>particularly</i> | → dismissed → Executive Order 10450 → gay community terrorised | |
| HUAC/ PSI | Created by Congress in 1938 to investigate private citizens, public employees and organizations. | <i>hugely</i> | | Hundreds imprisoned, 10-12,000 lost their jobs |
| COINTELPRO | FBI program to discredit groups thought subversive | | | |

3. Use this table as a framework to create your own essay plan or the question:

“Which of the following was the more important consequence of McCarthyism:

- The attacks upon the entertainment industry;
- The attacks on the gay community?