

A message to MTV

Do you know anything about these people?

What do you think they might do? (try to use some of the language below)

Target language

He might be / she could be ...

He looks like a ...

I guess she is probably a ...

They both look as if they are ...



Listening 1 – Gist

Listen and answer the following questions

1. Who is the letter to?
2. What is the letter about?
3. What is he grateful for?
4. What does the writer ask for?
5. What does the writer say he feels unhappy with?

Listening 2 – Vocab building

Which words complete these phrases? Listen to check

nominations I have _____

feel more _____ with

_____ appreciated

I have always been of the _____

my _____ thanks

at the _____ of times

_____ said that,

glittering _____

Listening 3 - Attitude

Listen again and decide how you think the reader, Kylie, feels about the letter?

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| a) Serious | c) Amused |
| b) Concerned | d) Happy |

Reflection

- What do you think of this decision? Why might other musicians want to take part in awards shows and ceremonies?
- Should the arts in general be evaluated by competition and prizes? (why/why not)

Writing

"My muse is not a horse and I am in no horse race."

1. What is the register of the letter you have just heard, formal or informal? Why?
2. Now read the letter on the next page, are there any words which would be typically formal?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. What typical features of a formal letter are there in this letter?
4. Find things that are a little different from a usual formal letter

Production

1. How would you reply to the letter? (think what information should be included)
2. Is there any vocab you think should be included?
3. How many paragraphs will there be and what will be in each one?
4. Together rewrite this opening so that it is formal:

"Hi Nick, Oh, that is sad."

TO ALL THOSE AT MTV,

I WOULD LIKE TO START BY THANKING YOU ALL FOR THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME OVER RECENT YEARS AND I AM BOTH GRATEFUL AND FLATTERED BY THE NOMINATIONS THAT I HAVE RECEIVED FOR BEST MALE ARTIST. THE AIR PLAY GIVEN TO BOTH THE KYLIE MINOGUE AND P. J. HARVEY DUETS FROM MY LATEST ALBUM MURDER BALLADS HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED AND HAS BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED. SO AGAIN MY SINCERE THANKS.

HAVING SAID THAT, I FEEL THAT IT'S NECESSARY FOR ME TO REQUEST THAT MY NOMINATION FOR BEST MALE ARTIST BE WITHDRAWN AND FURTHERMORE ANY AWARDS OR NOMINATIONS FOR SUCH AWARDS THAT MAY ARISE IN LATER YEARS BE PRESENTED TO THOSE WHO FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THE COMPETITIVE NATURE OF THESE AWARD CEREMONIES. I MYSELF, DO NOT. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OF THE OPINION THAT MY MUSIC IS UNIQUE AND INDIVIDUAL AND EXISTS BEYOND THE REALMS INHABITED BY THOSE WHO WOULD REDUCE THINGS TO MERE MEASURING. I AM IN COMPETITION WITH NO-ONE.

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY MUSE IS A DELICATE ONE AT THE BEST OF TIMES AND I FEEL THAT IT IS MY DUTY TO PROTECT HER FROM INFLUENCES THAT MAY OFFEND HER FRAGILE NATURE.

SHE COMES TO ME WITH THE GIFT OF SONG AND IN RETURN I TREAT HER WITH THE RESPECT I FEEL SHE DESERVES - IN THIS CASE THIS MEANS NOT SUBJECTING HER TO THE INDIGNITIES OF JUDGEMENT AND COMPETITION. MY MUSE IS NOT A HORSE AND I AM IN NO HORSE RACE AND IF INDEED SHE WAS, STILL I WOULD NOT HARNESS HER TO THIS TUMBREL - THIS BLOODY CART OF SEVERED HEADS AND GLITTERING PRIZES. MY MUSE MAY SPOOK! MAY BOLT! MAY ABANDON ME COMPLETELY!

SO ONCE AGAIN, TO THE PEOPLE AT MTV, I APPRECIATE THE ZEAL AND ENERGY THAT WAS PUT BEHIND MY LAST RECORD, I TRULY DO AND SAY THANK YOU AND AGAIN I SAY THANK YOU BUT NO...NO THANK YOU.

<http://pitchfork.com/news/61727-kylie-minogue-reads-nick-caves-infamous-1996-mtv-rejection-letter/>