HSC drama – rationale guide

For each Individual Project students will be required to present a 300-word rationale clearly explaining the intention of the project and the approach that has been taken. Students may ask themselves some of the questions below when writing their rationales

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| Suggested structure | Guiding questions | Sample response |
| A sentence that clearly explains the overall directorial concept/vision or intention of the project. | * What dramatic meaning do you want to communicate? * What should your audience understand/imagine/visualise/examine in response to your project? * What did you set out to achieve or create? * Where/how did your idea begin? | My production of ‘Spring Awakening’ by Sater and Sheik explores the realities of pressures faced by adolescents during the universal transition from childlike innocence to the overwhelming responsibilities of adulthood. |
| A paragraph explaining significant moments, ideas, images, techniques, approaches, demands and/or stylistic conventions the student has chosen to explore. | * What themes or ideas does your work explore? * What significant conventions of the style or form did you consider? * How have you dealt with the specific demands of the text/project? * What has influenced your work? * What important techniques or approaches have you explored in developing the work? * What important moment/image/quote most clearly expresses your intention/concept? | I see the musical as challenging perceptions of archetypal teenage apathy and obnoxiousness and have chosen to reveal the young characters as misunderstood and overwhelmed by their rapidly changing psychological and physiological state. I have achieved this by exploring the oppression and expectation forced on the two young protagonists by the adult characters. |
| A paragraph explaining significant elements of drama and/or design the student has chosen to manipulate, highlight, analyse and/or explore in developing and expressing their concept/intention. | * How have you controlled the elements of drama? * How have you used dramatic tension to engage the audience in the visual, written or performance choices you have made? * How and why have you used structure, colour, shape, symbol, atmosphere, space or language in your work to create dramatic meaning? * What significant challenges did you face in achieving your intention? * What do you think is most successful about your project (process or product)? | I have externalised the internal turmoil experienced by the young people. This conflict is emphasised through the manipulation of sound, lighting and levels to create a fractured and overwhelming theatrical world. The scaffolded platforms enhance the dramatic tension through the symbolic representation of ever-present parental pressure, allowing the adult characters (and orchestra) to constantly survey the actions of the young characters below. |
| A paragraph reflecting on the intended audience response to the work or the realisation of the intention/concept. | * How do you want your audience to respond to the work? * Is there anything that you need to clarify/explain/emphasise about the realisation of your intention/concept? * Was there something that surprised you about the process or the final project? | I will confront the audience with truths about the vulnerability and complexity of this turbulent stage of life. |