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English: teacher notes

25–40 minutes · Supports Gatsby Benchmark 4: linking curriculum learning to careers

Myth

English only matters if you want to be a writer or a teacher.

Truth

Every application, handover and report is written — clear English gets you hired.

Learning objectives

- Distinguish claims from evidence in persuasive writing.
- Use precise verbs and concrete detail.
- Apply writing skills to a real application context.

Lesson plan

5 min	Slide 1–2: myth vs truth. Ask where students think writing is used at work.
15 min	Slide 3: rewrite the CV line on the student sheet. Model one example first.
5 min	Peer swap and feedback.
5 min	Slide 4–5: link to jobs; exit question.

Answers and guidance

- Model answer: “I volunteered at my local food bank every Saturday for six months, sorting donations with a team of five and training two new volunteers.”
- Look for: a real activity, a time frame, numbers where possible and a strong verb (organised, trained, fixed, led).
- Students with no work experience can use school, clubs, caring responsibilities, sport or hobbies.

Free from Shine (shineai.tech/teacher-resources). Edit and share freely within your school.

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Show, don’t tell: upgrade a CV line

English · Student sheet

Name _____ Class _____

1. Read the weak line: “I am a hard worker and a team player.”
2. Rewrite it with evidence: what did you do, where, and what happened?
3. Swap with a partner. Underline the strongest verb in their sentence.

Weak line: “I am a hard worker and a team player.” What is missing?

My rewrite — what I did, where, and what happened

Partner’s strongest verb

Exit question: one thing I’ve done that proves a skill

Want a plan for your own route?

Free for 16–24s: shineai.tech/signup

Optional — scan the code if you want to explore.