

Section 3

TUTOR: Right, Sandra. You wanted to see me to get some feedback (1).....
..... The one you're submitting for the Geography Society field trip competition. I've (2)..... your proposal and I think it's a really good choice. In fact, I only have a few things to say about it, but even (3)..... like this you really have to be careful to avoid (4) the proposal, and even in the contents page. So read it through carefully before submitting it, okay?

SANDRA: Will do.

TUTOR: And I've made a few notes on the proposal about things which could (5).....

SANDRA: Okay.

TUTOR: As for the writing itself, I've annotated the proposal as and where I thought it could be improved. Generally speaking, I feel you've often used complex structures and long sentences for the sake of it and as a consequence... although your paragraphing and (6) help... it's quite hard to follow your train of thought at times. So cut them down a bit, can you?

SANDRA: Really?

TUTOR: Yes. And don't forget (7) Didn't I use page numbers?

SANDRA: I didn't mean that. Look, you've remembered to include headers and footers, which is good, but listing ideas clearly is important. Number them (8)..... which is even dearer. Then you'll focus the reader on your main points. I thought your suggestion to go to the Navajo Tribal Park was a very good idea.

TUTOR: I've always wanted to go there. My father was (9)..... cowboy films and the Wild West so I was subjected to seeing all the epics, many of which were shot there. As a consequence, it feels very familiar to me and it's awesome (10)..... so it's

somewhere I've always wanted to visit. The subsequent research I did and the online photographs made me even keener.

SANDRA: Interesting. Right, let's look at the content of your proposal now. Did you find it comprehensive enough?

TUTOR: Well, yes, I'd agree with including those points...

SANDRA: And then the fact that it's been home to native American Navajos and (11)..... that goes with that. The hardships they endured trying to save their territory from the invading settlers. Their culture is so rich – all those wonderful stories.

TUTOR: Well, I agree it's interesting, but it's not immediately relevant to your proposal, Sandra, so at this stage, I suggest you (12)..... I think an indication of what the students on the trip could actually do when they get there should be far more central, so that certainly needs to be included and to be expanded upon. And I'd like to see something about the local wildlife, and vegetation too, not that I imagine there's much to see. (13) hasn't helped.

SANDRA: Okay, I'll do some work on those two areas as well. But you're right, there's not much apart from some (14)..... Although it's cold and snowy there in the winter, the earth is baked so hard in the summer sun that rainwater can't penetrate. So it's a case (15) really.

TUTOR: So, I understand. Now, before we look at everything in more detail, I've got a few factual questions for you. It would be a good idea to include the answers in your finished proposal, because they're missing from your draft.

SANDRA: Fine.

TUTOR: So, you mentioned the monoliths and the spires, which was good, but what area does (16)? Do you know?

SANDRA: 12,000 hectares, and the plain is at about (17).....

TUTOR: Larger than I expected. Okay. Where's the nearest accommodation? That's a practical detail that you haven't included. Have you done any research on that?

SANDRA: Yes. There's nowhere to stay in the park itself, but there's an old trading post called Goulding quite near. All kinds of tours start from Goulding, too.

TUTOR: What kind of tours?

SANDRA: Well, the most popular are (18)..... - but I wouldn't recommend hiring those. I think the best way to appreciate the area would be to hire horses instead and trek around on those. Biking is not allowed and it's impossible to drive around the (19)..... The tracks are too rough.

TUTOR: Okay, lastly, what else is worth visiting there?

SANDRA: There are several caves, but I haven't (20)..... I'll find out about them.

TUTOR: Okay, good. Now what I'd like to know is...