Everyone alters there speech depending on who they are talking to especially teenagers. Teenagers use nonstandard English when talking to their peers, when speaking to adults they will use more formal language. In this essay I will be comparing two examples of spoken language I have studied. (Text A – Lancaster boys) (Text B Duncan)

In Text A non standard english is used throughout as they are having a relaxed conversation ‘I aint got owt planned’. In Text A there are many more examples of incorrect grammar for example slipping between the tences ‘it was’ ‘its harsh’. The Lancaster boys use many examples of vague language when they communicate ‘I’ve got stuff planned’. Whereas in Text B Duncan uses standard english throughout his speech, as he is addressing an adult audience and he is also talking about a serious matter. However, there are some examples of informal language used by Duncan in his speech, specificly to tone down the seriousness of the subject ‘I was gutted’.

The conversation in Text A is layered with many examples of dialect from the Lancaster region, for example ‘owt’. In contrast to Text B where there is no dialect as it would be very inappropriate to the audience listening, because Duncan is a part of a competition and it would bring him down on marks.

In Text A the Lancaster boys use the acronym ‘Lol’ to express the thrase ‘laugh out loud’. This is a good example of modern day technology ‘text talk’ influencing the Spoken Language of the younger generation ‘teens’. The acronym used by the younger generation is not a word that adults would have or use in their vocabulary. Therefore ‘Lol is a good example of ‘teen talk’.

Throughout text A there are many changes of agenda between one and other, as there are many interuptions and overlapping that occur within the conversation. The teenagers speech is pure ‘banter’ the gossip between friends were everyone has an equal right to speak. Whereas Duncan sets the agenda from the offset of his compelling speech. He takes complete control over the audience, which is very important, so that he can get his point across ‘Let me tell you’. Duncan has the right to have complete control of the agenda, as it would be inappropriate for everyone having the right to speak but also he wouldn’t be the main focus which he needs to be to be able to convey his message. In text B Duncan has carefully thought out and used emotive language in his speech, giving the audience the shocks of children’s rights ‘in Malawi only 8 out of 100 children make the transition from primary education to secondary education’ this creates a strong impretion on the audience, enlighting them on the situation that has been ongoing. in contrast to text A where there is no thoughtout or diliberate language devices aimed at the audience, it is just an unprepared conversation between peers the doesn’t relate to any specific topic.

In text B Duncan addresses his speech to the audience on a personal level of his experiences in Malawi. ‘He was 16 years old just two years older than me’ by doing this he creates a different atmosphere around the audience, sending a message, that this could be anyone. Whereas in Text A the lancaster boys talk most of their personal experiences, about matters that are not serious compared to Duncan’s speech ‘the bus didn’t come so I told everyone to go home’ this example shows how these two types of speechs are complete opposites of the spectrum.

In text B Duncan has used rhetorical devices to promote the strong feelings created by the subject of the speech. Duncan uses metaphors in his speech for example ‘the finest cocktail in the world is’ by using this he has modernised his speech, a new fresh cocktail. Rhetorical questions are also used ‘whose job will it be to keep britain great?’ this adds a great effect on the auidience, making them think about the situation. Whereas in Text A there is no aparant use of rhetorical devices.

I have shown in my essay the ways that teenagers alter there language / speech depending on who they are talking to.