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Tasks in the order I received them:

Task 1: Observational Writing = 558 words

Task 2: Manifesto Writing = 514 words

Task 3: Practice-based Writing = 501 words

Task 1: Observational Writing

When you look around the world, you see a world full of many products, whether its your phone, kitchen equipment or maybe just your furniture. We are always using products and design in our day to day lives (The Design of Everyday Things, 2013). Studies have shown that the design of our surroundings can impact human behaviour (Sensory Arts and Design, 2017), could this suggest that human behaviour adapts as design does?



Image 1. Park Hill estate before it was renovated



Image 1. Park Hill estate after it was renovated

Studies have suggested a link between brutalist, poorly built council estates and crime. I believe personally that the brutalist architecture creates a gloomy mood for everyone there, potentially increasing crime. After the Park hill estate was renovated, crime saw a noticeable drop. Rachel Fisher, head of policy at the national housing federation hails it as “Designing out crime”. The issue is, after World War II, Britain needed a lot of homes and fast, so instead of focussing on design and making everything look nice, it was rushed for the sake of “quality over quantity”. At the time this worked, and nobody really minded, but I now feel we are seeing the consequences at a lack of planning of a long-term design and is costing us more money as we are having to redevelop buildings to look better when they could have just been planned and designed nicely in the first place. If they were designed with thought, perhaps we would be saving a lot of money now.

We also rely on design for more complex ideas like safety. Often you see designs in everyday life and do not even realise some lesser-known features added in, potentially for people with disabilities. For example, the tactile pavement has different patterns, it is not for looks, each pattern on the tactile pavement tells you why it is warning you, whether it is at a road crossing, a train station platform, or the top of a staircase.

I believe it is very difficult however to determine whether you can actually “Design out crime”. It could just be that if someone is poorer; and as a result, live in a poorer, less affluent looking area, they are more likely to be sucked into a life of crime. There are some who like the Brutalist style of design and want it kept. I wholeheartedly disagree. I find brutalism almost hard to look at, it just is not pleasant. I have visited council estates and the older ones do have a cold feeling to them; it made me not want to be there compared to the newer built council estates (Modernist Estates — Europe: The Buildings and the People who Live in Them Today, 2019).

There could also be a link between how people perceive brutalist architecture and its links to communist countries. Many communist countries to this day have brutalist architecture all throughout. A society that associates the word “communist” with negativity would likely see anything involved with it in a negative light and therefore have the brutalist architecture used extensively in Britain in the 60’s in a negative light. In general, I do believe there is a link between design and how people behave, but I do believe there are many other factors to people’s behaviour too, we don’t just base our behaviour of what design looks like around us or we would be all over the place whenever we moved around.

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Task 2: Manifesto Writing

1. Always go into a conversation or debate with an open mind.
2. The sky isn't the limit if man made it to the moon.
3. Freedom of speech, expression, assembly are the most important rights we have and shouldn't be infringed.
4. The news and media often portray who they dislike in a negative way and distort and mislead people into believing it.
5. There is no such thing as a good looking design, we just label designs as good if it's what we've grown up being lead to believe looks good by the society around us.
6. Often the more radical or crazy ideas turn out to be the way forward.
7. We should focus on making things look good just as much as we consider any other part of it.
8. Society in recent years has grown too politically correct in recent years, people are too afraid to say things in case someone labels them racist or anything. Political correctness going mad is dangerous, we must have a society that expresses new ideas or we are stuck going nowhere.

For me as a person, I have a lot of beliefs that I find are pretty core to myself. I find one thing in the world that is bothering me is political correctness gone mad (Political correctness gone mad?, 2018) which a lot of people agree with. The idea of the media or groups telling people they're not allowed to say certain things anymore in case it might offend someone, when it is done too much it gets to the point where people are scared to even speak because they don't even know what they're allowed to say anymore. I believe it is perfectly fine to have some general social rules about not saying certain nasty things but not over the top rules and being petty about words, people need to stop getting so offended, people should go into a discussion with an open mind as well, not just jump down peoples throats as soon as they say a word that might be controversial, political correctness, I understand why it's there, it is a threat to freedom of speech and needs to calm down. In banning discussions of certain topics, we risk stopping a much needed debate about certain issues.

In the past LGBT rights were unthinkable, imagine if we banned discussion of LGBT in the old days just because it was unthinkable. In allowing more ideas to be discussed, we allow progress to move forward in our society. I am a big supporter of the first amendment to the US constitution which states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the

Government for a redress of grievances.”. I think that was a monumental decision in history to have that as part of a constitution, it had never been seen before, to actually allow the people to have their own opinions.

I believe the media is responsible for my argument of political correctness gone mad. The media is the one writing articles and stories on why certain words are now banned. Nobody has told them to, there is no government guidance telling them it is banned, they just say it's now a word you cannot use. All of this then links to how we are brought up to perceive design. I've been brought up in the twenty-first century only, I am accustomed to modern architecture that utilises a lot of glass and steel, simple yet elegant. My grandparents from the older generations hate modern architecture and design and prefer design from their era. It just goes to show that whatever you're brought up thinking it is hard to change someone's mindset once they are already set in their ways. But no matter how hard it is to change someone's mind, I know we should always strive to design the best we can and not put quantity over quality. It may prove a quick and easy fix but it will cost more later on.

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Task 3: Practice-based Writing:

Frank Lloyd Wright is an interesting designer, although he is an architect, I still find his style interesting and I do actually believe you can incorporate a lot of architecture into product design. I would say it is not the fact he designs architecture that I like him, it's his style. He likes to incorporate nature and organicism in his designs. His designs are almost “in harmony with humanity and its environment” which helps educate and make people realise what the natural world is really like. I know for a fact that his style of organic architecture can be adapted into product design where we can design organic

looking products or furniture. Perhaps a chair that merges into its natural surroundings. Frank Lloyd Wright was a strong believer in individualism but did take inspiration from many sources including Japanese art and buildings, Nature and music.

Not all of Frank Lloyd Wright's work was buildings either, he did work on furniture such as the "Peacock chair" which he designed for the Imperial hotel in Tokyo. I believe in general; Frank Lloyd Wright was trying to encourage more design thinking at a time when buildings and products were often rushed to favour quantity over quality. This in turn made for not very good products. His nod to organic designs and using nature more in his ideas could also be a show of support for the climate change movement which at the time of his designs wouldn't have been very big. A lot of Japanese architecture is considered pretty and in keeping with the natural world, this could be why he used Japanese art and buildings for inspiration for a lot of his work.

Frank Lloyd Wright links back to my point about new radical ideas are not always that bad, as long as we look at his designs and anyone else's designs with an open mind, we might discover something that turns out to be amazing.