Here are some language devices writers might use in non-fiction texts. Use this glossary to help you revise the features in non-fiction texts.

Adjectives and adjectival phrases	Vocabulary used to create an atmosphere or induce an attitude in the reader. For example, when describing criminals, the following could be used to elicit sympathy: • hopeless • desperate • at the end of the road • suffering from mental illness. The opposite effect is created by this lexical field which conveys a sense of blame and righteous anger, leading us to believe the criminal is responsible for their own actions. The focus is on the effect on the victim here: • innocent victims • hardened criminals • young offender • anti-social • irresponsibility.
Colloquialisms	These can communicate a sense of personality, age, location or background, or indicates the kind of relationship between the speaker and someone else (for example 'chill out', 'message me', 'gonna', 'ain't').
Discourse markers	To introduce new information or a different perspective. The writer's choice of discourse markers affects the way in which we read the text, and can convey cynicism, disbelief, understanding and so on. Here are two examples: *Despite* the challenges, these young people are fighting to overcome their criminal pasts. or *While* they are attempting to overcome their criminal pasts, these young offenders have a long way to go.
Emotive language	'The *vulnerable* young men had *no choice but* to steal'.
Quotations	The writer will carefully choose quotes from sources which support the slant of their article and will present them in a way which furthers their point. The effect is reversed in the second example because of the writer's use of the quotation.

Quotations	For example: *Harry said he 'wasn't bothered' about the effect of his actions on his victims.* or *Despite saying, in a barely audible whisper, that he 'wasn't bothered' about the effect of his actions, Harry looked visibly pained at the mention of his victims.*

Rhetorical devices	Rhetorical questions, alliteration, repetition, metaphor, antithesis, simile, onomatopoeia and so on.

Tone	This could be humorous, formal, self-deprecating, sceptical and so on. For example: I boarded the 11.30 train as planned and, having located my seat, immediately commenced writing my report. (formal) Tripping over my tatty shoelaces, I stumbled into the carriage in my usual clumsy manner while wrestling with my suitcase. (self-deprecating)