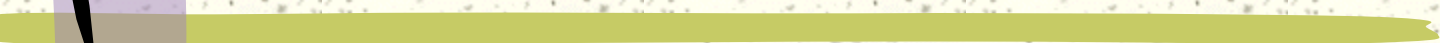



Personal Writing



- # Aim: To learn how to plan, structure and write a personal reflective piece of writing.

Success Criteria

- # You will be able to plan and write an essay that contains thoughts, feelings, detail, description, some imagery, and reflection.

Structure - Introduction

- # 1 - Start in the middle of the story, by hooking your reader.
- # You want the reader to be fascinated and interested from the very first sentence.
- # You need to think of a way to make this happen. There are two ways to do this.

Hooking the reader - 1

1 - Ask a rhetorical question

Sample - Have you ever had your heart broken?

Sample - Have you ever felt like you could not get through the day?

Rhetorical questions make the reader think, and therefore make your essay more interesting.

Hooking the reader - 2

- # Make an outrageous statement that makes the reader intrigued.
- # Sample - I wrenched my arm out of the gap.
- # Sample - The wall came crashing down and my heart hammered in my chest.
- # If your opening statement is interesting, the reader will be curious to find out what happens next.

Next comes... telling the story.



The Rule : Start in the middle and work your way back.

After you have hooked the reader, you need to tell them the story.

And finally.....

- # In your conclusion, you must reflect.
- # If your essay contains some clear, relevant reflection, you will improve your grade.

Reflection - What does this mean?

- # When you look in the mirror, you see your reflection.
- # If you could give your younger self some advice, what advice would you give them?
- # What do you see when you look back at the event in your story? **What have you learned?**

Wider Reflection

- # If someone drives a car when drunk, and causes an accident, not only will the driver learn something, we all learn something.
- # Don't drink and drive.
- # This is reflecting on a wider level. Can you apply this to your story?

Helpful phrases for reflecting: Write them down

- # Looking back...
- # On reflection...
- # With hindsight...
- # In retrospect...
- # Nowadays I think/feel/believe...
- # If I could do this again...
- # If this happened now...
- # I realise/understand/should have/could have/
- # Because of this I am....

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Phrases continued

- # Because of this I am...
- # Since this happened I...
- # When I think back on this....
- # Thinking about it now, I feel....
- # At the time I....., but now I.....
- # If I could change things.....
- # Now that I've been through this.....
- # I grew through this experience because.....
- # This experience shaped me because.....

Things to remember in every paragraph

- # You must describe your thoughts and feelings in every paragraph.
- # Every paragraph must reflect on the experience in some way - how do you feel now?
- # Using imagery will strengthen your descriptions - use similes and metaphors when you can.

Summary: WRITE THIS IN YOUR JOTTER!

- # 1 - Hook the reader in your introduction by launching into the middle of the story.
- # 2 - Describe the story from beginning to end - what happened? Describe your thoughts and feelings, use imagery to add description, and reflect.
- # 3 - Reflect in your conclusion. Leave the reader with something to think about.

Step 2 - Choosing a title

- # You will be shown 3 lists of titles.
- # From each list you will write one short paragraph (10 minutes) to warm up your brain.
- # When you have written on 3 topics, you will then choose one.

List 1 - 'Times in your life'

- # The..... Thing that has ever happened to me.
- # Worst/hardest/happiest/saddest/
most frightening/strangest
- # Choose one idea and write one paragraph

List 2 'Events'

- # An event in my life that..
- # Most shaped me
- # Made me grow up or mature
- # Changed my family
- # Has been most confusing
- # Showed me the best/worst of someone/people

List 3 - People in your life

- # A person who...
- # Most influenced me
- # Most helped me
- # Most hurt me
- # I miss the most
- # I am glad to be rid of

Phase 3: Planning

Now, you should have:

A title

Notes on how to structure your essay

Next step: Planning your essay

Divide your page into the following headings in any form you wish - mindmap, clear headings, grid...

1 - The beginning


2 - The middle

3 - The end

4 - Conclusion

REMEMBER: Every paragraph that you plan for must contain thoughts, feelings, detail, description, some imagery, and reflection.

Note making



- # You will now make your notes under each heading.
- # You may jot your notes down as single words, phrases, ideas.
- # Don't write the story yet!

Phase 4: Writing

- # Now that you have prepared everything, it's time to write.
- # First draft to be completed Monday 23rd September.