Writing guidelines

Writing task: A short essay

Write and check: Write a short essay about the history of your family, a family member, or someone from your community that is essential to your life. Use the questions to help you plan your essay.

Questions

1. What is the name of the person you are going to write about?
2. What is their relationship to you?
3. Which events in their life do you want to write about?

Writing planning

a. Write down the events in your narrative in the order in which they happened.

b. Plan the grammar that you will use to order the events. You can use: present, past, present perfect, and even future.

c. Make it simple. People often like stories with ideas and language that are easy to understand.

d. Share essential aspects of the situation.

e. Show, don't tell.

Example: "Jorge was walking into his house when he saw an animal." This is telling.

"Mario was nervously walking into his dark living room when two large, yellow eyes appeared in front of him." This is showing.

f. Surprise! People love surprises – especially at the end of a story.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Check!

• Did you use *transition expressions*?

• Did you use adjectives (amazing, amazed, shocking, shocked, interested, interesting, etc.)

• Did you use diverse types of time clauses? *Who, which, where, when, etc.*

Sample answer

To begin, my mother, Anna Mendez , is a generous and brave person. She was born in a beautiful region from Colombia, called Dorada – Caldas. My mom was raised in a sociable and reliable environment; however, the economic situation of her youth life was not very generous with the people from her town, principally when the arm conflict started. At that time my mom was single, consequently, she went to work to a major big city.

Before she left her home, she lost some family in the war. As a consequence, my mother decided to take a bus, and she abandoned her old life, she felt nervous but confident.

Luckily, when she arrive to a new town, she met a young and generous man who offered to help her find a home and a good job. This was the man who eventually became my father. It was love at first sight; consequently, she had a chance of happiness; therefore, they returned to the city once the war ended.

As soon as they found jobs, they married and subsequently they had four children, all of them were successful.

In the end, they retired to a small house near Rio Magdalena where they first met.

SOME USEFUL VOCABULARY TO USE:

Adjectives	Verbs	Adjectives	Verbs
selfish	be born	helpful	live alone
serious	be into	honest	live with my family
sociable	be married	intelligent	retire
brave	be raised	nervous	
cheerful	be single	reliable	
easygoing	celebrate	generous	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Use the following space to write your own story.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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