



O'level
Foundation
Week 27

The Write Tribe

PERSONAL RECOUNT



REWRITE YOUR PREVIOUS ESSAY HERE!
FORMAT YOUR ESSAY PROPERLY!



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PERSONAL RECOUNT

STRUCTURE

ORIENTATION

Explain the who, what, when, where of the experience in your introduction.

CHRONOLOGY

Events are described in the sequence in which they occurred.

INSIGHT

Include personal comments, opinions or interpretations of the recounted experience or event.

FOCUS

Only significant events are included

ORGANIZATION

Relevant information is grouped in paragraphs

FEATURES

TENSE

First and third person are used most frequently and recall is always written in past tense. Present tense can be used for analysis and opinion.

NOUNS

Use proper nouns to refer to specific people, places times and events

CONNECTIVES

Use conjunctions and connectives to link events and indicate time sequence

VOICE

Both active and passive voice are used in recounts



WRITING ORGANIZER - Recount

Orientation: - Introduction – Setting the scene.

Gives details of:

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why

Events: - What happened – in chronological order.

What happened?

- First...
- Next...
- Soon...
- During...
- After...
- Later...
- Eventually...
- Finally...

Conclusion: - Personal Comment (Optional)

What did you think, feel or decide about the events that happened.

Recounts are always written in past tense so be conscious to stay in this tense right throughout. Everything has already happened so ensure your vocabulary reflects this.

The challenge in writing a good recount is to provide the audience with the story as it happened but to leave out incidental and boring information.

Set the scene for the audience in terms of characters, setting and context. We refer to this as our orientation and it will provide the reader with all the key ingredients of the recount in the introduction by addressing the who, what, when and where.

Keep everything in chronological order in a recount and use a variety of time transitional terms and phrases so as to keep your audience engaged throughout.

- Use a range of adjectives, try and avoid "And then, and then, and then."
- Each new section will require a paragraph.
- Use the correct language and terms relevant to your recount. Consider your audience, and the language they will connect with.
- If you are writing from a specific point of view use the relevant language to match the perspective. Most commonly in a recount you will be recounting in the first person.



PERSONAL ACCOUNT:

Write about an embarrassing moment.

Some things are easier to remember, and some are easier to forget. I can remember my most embarrassing moment as if it happened yesterday. I've tried, over the years, to forget this moment, but it just never seems to go away. As I've gotten older, I can think back to that day and just laugh.

I was 12 years old and I just started Secondary school. I was a quiet and shy person, so I never hung out with anyone.

Everyday of my life, my mom had always combed and styled my hair. She would usually do my hair into two pig tails. This was how I wore my hair from Primary one to six. For the first day of school, I asked my mom to do my hair that morning so it would look nice. She did my hair in my regular hairstyle, two pigtails. Each pigtail was secured with my favourite 'Pom Pom' scrunchie. I was expecting everything to be okay but little did I know I was in for a surprise.

I arrived to school and went into my new classroom. Everyone stopped their conversation to turn and look at me. I looked around the classroom and noticed that all the females either had their hair in one ponytail or had it pressed and curled into a style. My hair was styled like a child from



Primary 3 or 4. I was so embarrassed that I wanted to cry! It didn't help much that the teacher made me sit in front of the classroom where everyone could see me. To make matters worse, I inherited a nickname from the older boys at school - Miss Piggy!

From that point on, I never let my mom do my hair anymore. I would always wear one ponytail to school. Needless to say, I thought I would never have any female friends that school year. I was expecting everyone to just ignore my existence. However, I was wrong and eventually things became better. Soon, I had friends. Of course, I never wore my hair in pigtails ever again! I still laugh when I think about it to this day.

