



# PERSONAL RECOUNT



## PERSONAL RECOUNT

Retells an activity the writer has been personally involved in and may be used to build the relationship between the writer and the reader e.g. anecdote, diary journal, personal letter. These usually retell an event that the writer was personally involved in.

**The retelling of an event: personal, factual or imagined**

**Events are recounted in the order they occurred.**

## RECOUNTS

**Can include dialogue as long as it's relevant.**

**Use figurative language to engage your audience.**



## 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 a recount is a deeply reflective process. As such you will want to spend the largest part of recount writing time refining the details, language and narration of the event you are recounting.

## **POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE WRITING**

- What are you going to tell your audience? What are you recounting?
- What information will the audience need early in the text?
- What are the important events or parts of the recount you want to describe? And what order will they occur in?
- How will you let your readers know the order of events? And what language will we use to link them?
- What other information may be useful to include?
- How will you conclude your recount?



## POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE WRITING

At this point consider some of the questions your audience might ask whilst reading your recount such as.

- What occurred?
- Where did it take place?
- When did it occur?
- Who were the main characters / people involved?
- Why did certain things happen?
- How did things happen?
- What were some of the reactions to the events that occurred in your recount?
- What are the concluding thoughts or ideas you want to leave with your readers?



## 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...

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.

**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.



## PERSONAL ACCOUNT:

**Write about a time when you did something to impress someone which you later regretted?**

I can never forgive myself for this. Till today I regret this and the memory haunts me. I was in Primary 5. It was the first day of school when Deaven waltzed into class. Her hair was unkempt, the buttons from her uniform was missing and nobody liked her. Despite that, out of the kindness of my heart, I was drawn to her. She was lonely and often sat all alone in the canteen. Soon, I would join her and a friendship blossomed between us.

Fast forward a few months later, things did not improve with Deaven. The bullying got out of hand. Deaven was often the last one to be picked when it comes to group projects. When she was finally 'forced' to join a group, she would be greeted with looks of disdain. Despite all that happened, I chose to hang out with Deaven until late August.

I was contesting for Class President and the support of my fellow classmates was important. I was pretty popular and doing well. However, one late Friday



afternoon, things changed. As I was grooming myself in the bathroom, I was approached by a group of 'popular' girls from my class.

"Are you Deaven's friend?" Priscillia, the 'ringmaster' of the group inquired.

"Yes." I replied.

"Ew! I thought you were cool. If you are friends with her, I guess i'll just have to tell everyone not to vote for you!" Priscillia sneered at me. Soon after, they left. I did not think much about it. However, what happened the following monday made me reconsider my friendship with Deaven.

The following Monday, I was given the cold shoulder by almost everyone in class. Whatever Priscillia was doing was succeeding. I was not popular and I witnessed my votes dwindling. Feeling afraid, I would not be well-liked by everyone, I did something that I would regret.

During recess, when Deaven approached to sit beside me, I did something awful. Before she could sit down, I pulled her chair away and Deaven crashed onto the floor. While everyone started laughing, I joined in the laughter. To add fuel to the fire, I pretended to drop my soda on her by 'accident.' Soon, the canteen was filled with hoots of laughter but Deaven's face cascaded with tears. Eventually, I won the favour of my classmates



back. I became the class president. I never really engaged with Deaven again. Months later, she left to another school and I never saw her again. Though I became class president, my conscience pricked me. I can never forget the look of betrayal on her face when I pulled the chair from her. Years later, I am combing through different social media platforms to get a glimpse of Deaven so I can just tell her how much I regretted hurting her. This is one regret I may have to carry for the rest of my life.

