



PERSONAL RECOUNT



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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.



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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.

