O'level

Foundation

Week 10

The Write Tribe

PERSONAL RECOUNT

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

VOICE
Both active and passive voice are used in recounts

CONNECTIVES
Use conjuctions and connectives to link events and indicate time sequence

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PERSONAL ACCOUNT:

Write about the most important person in your life.

As cliche as this may sound, the most important person in my life is my mother. Every child out there would always have a special place for their mother. I am no different. She has made numerous sacrifices, been there with me through thick and thin and made sure I only received the best. If I am where I am today, I owe that to my mother. She helped me in lots of situations, and I became the person I wanted because of her. She is also a role model in the lives of most people who have the privilege of knowing her. The reasons why I value my mother are her resilience, hard work, and her kindness.

To begin with, I had a very different childhood from many others. Unlike many children, I did not grow up with my father. I don't even remember his face. My only memories of him were faded photographs from the 70s. Unfortunately for me, my father died in an accident few months before I was born. This was devastating for my mother. Being seven months pregnant with me, she had to persevere against all odds to give me a safe life. At that time, my father was the sole breadwinner. My mother was given a compensation to survive on. Despite the heart break, she had to stay strong and positive for me. She did not want her depression to affect me. She persevered on and gave birth to a healthy baby boy on March 29, 1978. Some say I inherited her strong will. Thanks to her resilient nature, I never missed not having a father. My mother was both the maternal and paternal figures in my life.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

However, not having a father figure gave new challenges to my mother. Money was a problem. My mother was not very educated unlike my father. My father was an university professor. While he was alive, my mother enjoyed luxuries. However, after his death, life became difficult. My mother had to roll up her sleeves and get to work. She took two jobs to make ends meet. She worked as a cashier and a waitress in the evenings. She would always remember to bring me a snack or two. She would wake me up from my sleep and give me a kiss. I still remember her smelling of burgers and french fries when she came home. However, whatever she earned was barely enough to put food on the table. After months of hard work, my mother saved up enough money to start a home bakery business. In the beginning, there were no sales. However, my mother was unfazed. She invested in herself, took night classes on marketing and soon business started booming. Thanks to her hard work, she managed to put me through university.

Finally, the quality that inspires me the most is my mother's kindness. Despite all the hardship she went through, she always lent a helping hand to others. On weekends, she would bring me to volunteer at the local Children's Home. She would bake cupcakes, birthday cakes and pastries for the children there. She taught me the importance of kindness. She always gave away free cakes to neighbours too. She would always reminiscence, "After your father's death, these neighbours stood by me like family. I will always be indebted to them!"

Today, I manage the bakery. I am a graduate of Business Marketing. I am a proud father of two girls. I am independent and a responsible man thanks to my mother. My mother still bakes cakes fit for the gods, despite being 70 years old. I will always be proud of her. Always.

LIVEWORKSHEETS