



O'level

Foundation

Week 16

The Write Tribe

PERSONAL RECOUNT



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 someone who significantly impacted your life

We meet many people in the course of our lifetime. However, some people are catalysts who can significantly change the way you think. I met someone like that several years ago. Her name was Minh. I first met her in our primary school. She was our school's cleaner. Nobody liked her. Her face was deformed and she had a huge bulge poking out of her forehead. People called her a monster. We created cruel stories about her and she was a talking point for many of us. However, little did I know my perception of her would change drastically.

It was the last day of school. Everyone had left except me. I was frantically looking for my wallet. I realised I had not brought enough money for a bus ride home. I tried reaching my parents through a payphone and I could not get hold of them. Not knowing what to do, I started sobbing. That was when I felt a hand on my shoulder. Startled, I turned around to find old Minh staring at me. Naturally, I was frightened and proceeded to say something rude to her. I did not want her anywhere near me. She handed me a piece of tissue and told me to calm down. "What happened, dear?" It was the first time I ever heard her voice. Surprisingly, it was sweet and melodic in contrast to her face. I told her what had happened and she told me she would help me. I was skeptical to follow her. What if she was a witch? What if what the other children had said was true? Maybe she boiled children alive?

The school was closing and she asked me to follow her home. She lived nearby. Clutching my bag, I followed her. She lived in a tiny, one room



apartment. She called my parents and informed them I was with her. "Your parents would be here in two hours. Could you help me out with something?" she politely asked. What happened next changed my perspective of her forever. She went into the kitchen and grabbed a large carton of cans. It was all cat food. She asked me to help feed all the stray cats in the neighbourhood. I was touched by her act of kindness. "Do you do this everyday?" I asked. "Not once. But twice a day. It gives me fulfillment!" she said with a smile. I was touched by her actions. I never asked her what caused her deformity. It did not matter anymore as her heart was truly made of gold. From that day on, I never judged anyone by their outward appearance. She impacted me in such a way that I only gave kindness back to the world. Of course, I took up after her and started feeding stray animals in my neighbourhood.



PERSONAL RECOUNT: Write about someone who significantly impacted your life

WRITING ORGANIZER - Recount

Orientation: - *Introduction – Setting the scene.*

Events: - *What happened – in chronological order.*

Conclusion: - *Personal Comment (Optional)*

FORMAT YOUR ESSAY PROPERLY!



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