O'level

Foundation

Week 21

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

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

VOICE
Both active and passive voice are used in recounts

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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.

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.

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.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

PERSONAL ACCOUNT:

Write about a time when you made a meaningful contribution

'We should contribute to society in some way or another.' This is something that has been drilled to us since school. Some have the luxury of a disposable income to give large amounts to charity whereas others give their time in terms of doing voluntary work. Most importantly, it must cause a meaningful impact to you and others. I experienced one such incident a few years back when I was in Secondary two. I still remember like it happened yesterday.

It was a hot, sultry day. The sun was merciless and I was perspiring profusely. School was over and I could not wait to get home. Under my HDB block, construction work was ongoing. The drilling noises were mildly annoying but it was something we had to tolerate. Migrant workers from neighbouring countries were toiling all day. I did not give much thought to them. All I wanted was to get home quickly. Mother did not have time to prepare food but she gave me a generous amount of money that day. My mouth was watering at the thought of chicken rice and iced tea. I was planning to get some snacks too and play my favourite video game all afternoon.

One of the migrant workers gathered under the block and started his lunch. He was from Bangladesh. He was a stout and strongly built man, barely in his thirties. He looked famished and exhausted. I could not blame him. The sun was a tyrant that day, zapping away our energies. Slowly, he opened his brown paper package and took out a bottle of water. Just as he was about to

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eat, he received a call and in a thick accent he answered, “Yes sir! I am coming!” He tried to wrap his food up and then he left. I did not think much of it and went to to order chicken rice. However, when I was back, I was upset by what I had seen. Birds had gathered and started eating the man’s food. At that moment, he too returned to witness the exact event. Frustration built up on his face. However, he did not disturb the birds. “Shoo! Shoo!” I tried to chase away the birds. “Boy! No use! I can’t eat the food anyway! Let them eat it at least!” the Bangladeshi man smiled through his frustration. I was touched by his kindness. I decided to pass him by food.
“Take it sir!” I smiled. The man was surprised. “No! It’s okay boy! I can buy myself!” He spoke in broken English. I insisted and handed him my food and drink. With an embarrassed yet grateful smile, he accepted it.

Though I was hungry that afternoon, this incident opened my eyes to continue making a meaningful contribution. From that day onwards, I would bring home cooked food once a week to the migrant workers in my neighbourhood. I would help my mother cut vegetables and prepare the bento boxes. At times, I would hand them ice cold drinks to beat the hot weather. I may not be rich but this is one meaningful contribution I can make.

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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)*

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FORMAT YOUR ESSAY PROPERLY!

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