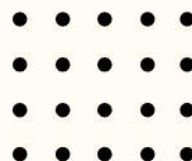


ANG-5105-1. WRITING SKILLS II



Personal Experience

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L.E.S Personal Experience

SCENARIO

People enjoy listening or reading about other people's personal stories as well as we enjoy talking about what happened to us during our vacations, on our way back home, at home, or at work. Telling and listening to stories are part of our daily lives. We do it for all kind of personal reasons (curiosity, empathy, entertainment, pleasure).

Have you ever watched a reality TV show? It is another way of knowing the story of someone else. You all know and use Facebook on a daily basis where you read about others stories and post your own ones. Therefore, it is necessary to know how to describe an experience or how to write stories in order to interest your audience.

It is your turn to be on stage and to describe a memorable experience that happened to you.

TASKS

Task 1:

Read the text : “One Town’s Entire Police Force Stepped Up to Help Care for a Premature Baby” on pages 2,3 and 5.

Use the information chart on page 5 and the “Story Map” on page 6 to gather and organize information about the text.

Task 2:

Write a memorable experience that happened to you. You may wish to tell the story of your moving to a new town, the birth of your child, a place you have visited or a topic of your own choice.

DURATION

- 120 minutes

AUTHORIZED MATERIALS/RESOURCES

- English dictionary, Bilingual dictionary, Grammar book
- Internet, Magazines, newspapers, books, other relevant resources

FAMILIES OF LEARNING SITUATIONS AND LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS:

- Informing, expressing

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read and interpret the text.
- Use the information chart to gather and organize information.
- Use the template to write a personal story of 250 words.

TASK 1 READ AND INTERPRET TEXTS

Inspiring Stories

Originally Published in [Reader's Digest](#)

One Town's Entire Police Force Stepped Up to Help Care for a Premature Baby

By [Jennifer McCaffery](#)



Courtesy Aurora Police Department

Axel Winch was born nearly 13 weeks prematurely, and the doctors didn't think he'd make it. He weighed two pounds, 12 ounces and had bleeding in his brain, a hole in his heart, scoliosis, and vision and hearing problems. After a week in the hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado, where parents Melissa and Adam Winch live, he developed a life-threatening intestinal condition. Doctors decided to airlift Axel and Melissa more than 320 km to neonatal intensive care at Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora.

Axel stabilized, but his health remained precarious over the next few weeks as his lungs and lymphatic system shut down. "There were many times we

didn't think he was going to live," Adam told Today. "He would die in our arms, and the nurses would scramble to revive him."

The roller-coaster ride felt even more frightening because the family was a four-and-a-half-hour drive from home. Fortunately, backup was on the way. Melissa, 39, is a police officer in Grand Junction, and Adam, 46, is a former officer who now owns a defense training company. The police department in Grand Junction contacted officers they knew in Aurora and said, "Hey, you need to check on one of our people," Adam recalls.

Soon, members of the Aurora police department flooded the Winches with offers of help. One brought them banana bread. A detective gave the couple a place to stay. Others showed up at the hospital to watch over Axel. "We were overwhelmed with the support from people we didn't know," Adam says. "It was the blue family."

But then things got tough again. After weeks of caring for Axel in Aurora, the couple had to briefly return to Grand Junction on two separate occasions. First, their house had been under contract when Axel arrived, and they had to move out in two days when it sold. The second time, Melissa's leave had run out, so she had to return to work for a few days. They hated having to abandon their son, who had improved but was still facing further surgeries. Melissa cried the whole way back to Grand Junction. "We were afraid he was going to die while we were gone," Adam says.

But the blue family came through again. Aurora police sergeant Mike Pitrusu set up a schedule for his officers to spend time with Axel—morning, afternoon, and night—when his parents couldn't be there. "I didn't want him to be alone," Pitrusu told 9NEWS. Somebody dubbed it "the cuddle watch."

More than 20 officers pitched in, reading to Axel, singing Elvis songs, and cradling him as his health slowly improved. They texted the parents photos of themselves asleep with Axel, updates from the nurses—even reports on Axel’s diapers. “It meant the world to us,” Adam told KKCO NBC 11 News.

It meant the world to the cops too. A detective who was traumatized by the horrific cases she had seen in child protection said “her soul was heavy from dealing with the most terrible things on the job,” Adam told the BBC. “She said that the cuddle watch healed her.”

After four months in the hospital, Axel was strong enough to go home. He can see now, has recovered some hearing, and grew into “almost a normal, healthy baby,” Adam says. “We’re just seeing miracle after miracle.”

There was, however, one condition from his time in the hospital that Axel can’t shake, Melissa told 9NEWS. “He just wants to be held all the time now.” And who could resist him?

Originally Published in [Reader's Digest](#)

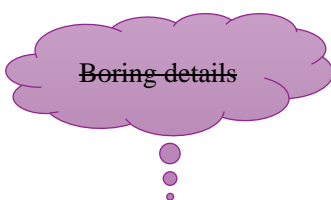
This chart may be used to help you gather and organize information for the final task. The chart and the Story Map are optional and will not be evaluated.

INFORMATION CHART from the text

“One Town’s Entire Police Force Stepped Up to Help Care for a Premature Baby”	Answers
<p>Beginning</p> <p>Introduction to the main character and situation. The main characters are facing a problem</p>	
<p>Middle</p> <p>What problem the main characters are overcoming? What is the turning point in the plot?</p>	
<p>End</p> <p>Resolution of the problem</p>	
<p>Other notes:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

Organizing Ideas

Story Map



Beginning : Introduce your setting

Make it real
and describe

Catch your
reader's attention

Middle : Main part of the action.
Try to overcome a problem

Use dialogues,
anecdotes,
feelings,
opinions

Use
suspense

Turning point of your story

End : Solution or unexpected ending

TASK 2 WRITE AND PRODUCE TEXTS

Scenario

People enjoy listening or reading about other people's personal stories as well as we enjoy talking about what happened to us during our vacations, on our way back home, at home, or at work, just to name a few. Telling and listening to stories are part of our daily life. We do it for all kind of personal reasons that belong to us (curiosity, empathy, entertainment, pleasure).

Haven't you ever watched a reality TV show? It is another way of knowing the story of someone else. You all know and use Facebook on a daily basis where you read about other's stories and post your own ones. Therefore, it is necessary to know how to describe an experience or how to write stories in order to interest our audience.

It is your turn to be on stage and to describe a memorable experience that happened to you.

Instructions:

Using the information from your Story Map on page 5, write a memorable experience that happened to you. You may wish to tell the story of your moving to a new town, the birth of your child, a place you have visited or a topic of your own choice.

- The body of your story will be 250 words long.
- Write your draft on the page titled "Draft". Write your final personal story on the page titled "Final Copy".
- Respect the plot structure: Beginning/ Middle / End.
- Introduce characters.
- Use description and words that depict sounds, colours, feelings.
- Use dialogues, anecdotes.
- Hand in this Learning Evaluation Situation.

DRAFT

Personal Story

[illegible]

[illegible]

FINAL COPY

Personal Story

[illegible]

