

## TEACHER'S GUIDE TO USING THE:

### 'Primary School Student's Writing Planner'

The '**Primary School Student's Writing Planner**' is designed to stimulate, formulate, sequence and plan ideas as a basis for producing a well-structured and composed piece of writing. It is a writing **TOOL targeting the draft phase of writing**.

Students in primary years often experience difficulty formulating and presenting their ideas in a structured manner, and moving an idea from thought to paper in an organised and effective manner!

The **Planner** is designed for use following the teaching and modelling of **all** forms of writing. Whether you are currently teaching **narratives, descriptions, information reports** or **discussions** - this **Planner** serves as a model for students to **plan** and **draft** their writing. The **final edited version** can either be **written in their writing books** or typed for submission.

**Students from Year 4 to Year 7** can use this book! Of course teachers would expect increased content and a higher level of competency in writing from their students in Years 6 and 7; however junior students will also produce higher quality writing by practising the skills of planning, drafting and sequencing their ideas BEFORE writing their final copy.

Whilst the model used in the **Planner** is an Information Report, it is not confined to this single text type. It doesn't matter which text type you are teaching, **ALL** texts can be planned and drafted using this **Planner** as a guide.

To summarise:

- **Teach** the text type and **discuss features** of the text type
- Choose a **topic** appropriate to the text type and introduce the **Planner**
- **Model a sample** with your class
- Guide your **students** to **use the Planner** to produce a great draft before their final version!
- The **draft sample** provided is written in **bullet points** - **it can be written in full text if preferred**

After using this system in my teaching for many years, I can guarantee YOU WILL SEE A DIFFERENCE IN EVEN THE MOST RELUCTANT WRITERS - AND THEY WILL TOO!

*Angie Wilcock, Author.*

The Primary School Student's Writing Planner includes an example of how this model can be used to help students draft an **INFORMATION REPORT** on apples. **See the following pages to see other worked examples based on two other text types.** The 1<sup>st</sup> is an **EXPOSITION (argument)** and the 2<sup>nd</sup> is a **RECOUNT**.

## WRITING PLANNER: EXPOSITION TEXT TYPE

So...you need to write an **EXPOSITION** or **Argument!** Follow the step-by-step guide and you may be surprised at how much easier it is to move your thoughts from your mind to your paper - before you have even researched!

Here is a sample topic to show you how it is done. No more staring at a blank piece of paper!

### TOPIC - IS SPORT GOOD FOR YOU?

Your **ARGUMENT** must give only **ONE** side of the story  
- decide which 'side' **BEFORE** you 'brainstorm'!

### **BRAINSTORM**

Write down anything you already know about SPORT - single words!!

healthy, fun, heart, lungs, fit, think, teams, individual, friends, social, competition, goals, Olympics, family, pride, fresh air, variety, rules, co-operation, discipline

### **MIND MAP**

Now group these words into subheadings or paragraphs

<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b>TYPES</b>	<b>VALUES</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
healthy	team	think	friends
heart	individual	discipline	family
lungs	competition	co-operation	fresh air
fit	social	pride	variety
fun	Olympics	goals	rules

### **ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO RESEARCH?**

- Statistics on the health benefits of playing sport?
- How many people play organised sport in Australia?

### **REFERENCES**

#### WEBSITES

"Why Exercise is Wise!" Available [http:// www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

#### BOOKS/JOURNALS

Grippo, D 2004, *Playing Fair, Having Fun: A Kid's Guide to Sports and Games* Elf-Help Pub., NY

#### MULTI-MEDIA (dvd etc)

*Kids Who Rip: Young Stars of Action Sports* (DVD, 2006)

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Now, let's start writing! Remember to identify the topic in the introduction and state your point of view, then write a series of paragraphs detailing your arguments for OR against, and wrap it up with a strong re-statement of your view! You can bullet point if you like.

## Introduction

Is sport good for you? With all the information around reminding us of the importance of being fit and healthy, it is hard to imagine that anyone could believe that sport is NOT good for you! Not only does sport help to keep you healthy, it is also fun and teaches us many valuable life lessons!

## Benefits of sport -

- **Healthy** attitude to sport and fitness sets us up for healthy diet and lifestyle
- **Heart and lungs** - strong cardiovascular system promotes good health
- Being **fit** - increases life span
- Sport can be **fun** - even if you are competitive
- We can make lots of **friends** through sport - similar interests
- A great way to involve the whole **family** - either participating or supporting
- A chance to get outside in the **fresh air** - even if it's an indoor sport - we can run and train outside!

## Types -

- Two types of sport - **team** sports and **individual** sports - suit diff. personalities
- Sports can be **social** or as part of **competition**
- A big **variety** of sports - something to suit everyone - tennis, netball, athletics, swimming, fencing, soccer are very popular sports
- **Olympics** - greatest sporting event in the world - everyone wants to be there!

## Values -

- Teaches values like **co-operation, self-discipline**, sportsmanship
- When we have done our best - feel **pride**
- Goal-setting - important in life - **goals** in sport helps us work hard to achieve
- Some sports really make us **think** - tactics, planning a move etc
- **Rules** in sport make the game fair for everyone - try hard and follow the rules!

## Conclusion

Sport is more than just a game. Whatever sport we choose, we have a great opportunity to not only become fitter and healthier, but also to make new friends who enjoy the same activities we do. Sport is not just about winning and losing, it is also about testing ourselves out to see how much we can achieve and enjoy at the same time. It's also about learning the important values of discipline, co-operation, sportsmanship and teamwork. Anyone who says that sport is NOT good for you surely must never have tried it!

## WRITING PLANNER: RECOUNT

So...you need to write a RECOUNT! Follow the step-by-step guide and you may be surprised at how much easier it is to move your thoughts from your mind to your paper.

Here is a sample topic to show you how it is done. No more staring at a blank piece of paper!

### TOPIC - MY REMARKABLE LIFE...SO FAR!

Your RECOUNT must re-tell the events in sequence.  
Remember WHO, WHAT,WHERE and WHEN!

#### **BRAINSTORM**

Write down anything you want to say about 'your life' - single words!!

hospital, Nullarbor Plains, heatwave, athletics, army, family, holidays, scary, sister, writer, November, doctor, dreams, school, future, exciting, party, adventure, London, Olympics

#### **MIND MAP**

Now group these words into subheadings or paragraphs

WHO/WHAT	WHERE/WHEN	EVENTS	OTHER
family _____	hospital _____	party _____	dreams _____
sister _____	heatwave _____	school _____	adventure _____
army _____	November _____	holidays _____	scary _____
doctor _____	Nullarbor Plains _____	athletics _____	exciting _____
writer _____	Rio _____	Olympics _____	future _____

**ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO RESEARCH?**

#### **REFERENCES**

##### WEBSITES

##### BOOKS/JOURNALS

##### MULTI-MEDIA (dvd etc)

**DRAFT**

**Now, let's start writing! Remember, a recount remembers events that have already happened - in the order they happened! Make sure you use interesting and descriptive words to recount your story! You can bullet point your draft if you like.**

An unbelievably hot day in **November** and we were in the middle of a **heatwave**. It was my birthday - in fact it was the day I was born! Of course I don't remember it very well, but I do know that I was born in a **hospital** in Sydney, with at least one **doctor** there to help my mum.

I was now part of a **family**, with a mum, one **sister** and a dad in the **army**. For the first five years of my life we lived in the army barracks, just outside of Sydney. I started school there, but we moved while I was still in Kindergarten and I was enrolled in a new **school**. I soon made new friends, and I still see some of them from time to time.

My first real memory was my 10th birthday **party** when we all went to our local bowling alley. It was the first time I had ever tried to bowl a ball down a lane to knock over some pins, and it was so **exciting**! My friends were all from school, so we had lots to talk about on Monday morning. It was my best party ever!

Two years later, my family travelled across the **Nullarbor Plains** to Perth. We spent most of the Christmas **holidays** getting there and back, and it was such an **adventure**. Many of the roads were not sealed, so we had to drive very slowly. I remember being bogged in the red dirt after a huge thunderstorm; the water was rising and coming inside the car and it was SO **scary**. Many nights were spent just parked in our van on the side of the road as there were no places to stay - there were no fancy hotels in the middle of the desert!

High school was tough for me, and I was glad to finish last year. I loved sport when I was younger, especially **athletics**. When I ran I always thought how fantastic it would be to run at the **Olympics**. Who knows, maybe there is still a chance I can go to **Rio** in 2016 - probably just as a spectator, but at least I can say I have been to an Olympic Games!

Now that my school days are over, I have been thinking about what I could do. I have always had **dreams** for the **future**. Maybe I should be a **writer**. I thought about all the things that have happened in my life and there are enough stories to fill a book! I would not want to wait until I was too old to write about it, so maybe I should start now and call my book "My Remarkable Life...So Far!" If what I have done in my life already is enough to fill a book, I can't wait to see what the future might have waiting for me.