

Writing a Diary Entry

A diary is a recount of events in the daily life of any person, and includes emotions, feelings, reflections, etc. It has no real audience, except for the writer, because it is a highly personal piece of writing and contains things the writer may not want to share with others. It becomes a kind of outlet or vent for a person to express both positive and negative things where there is no judgment or criticism. As a school text type, of course, there is assessment of language, style, text type elements, etc.

When a young person (below 20 perhaps) writes a diary, the language is very informal. There may be some crude or even rude vocabulary (don't use swearing in a piece of writing for school, but you can use substitute words). Here is a list of things you might find in a dictionary entry:

1. Informal language
2. Conversational Style
3. Conditionals to express regret or concern for future events (What if.. If only, etc...)
4. Scribbles, drawings, emoticons.
5. Past tense to refer to things further in the past.
6. Present tense to refer to very recent things.
7. Direct address
8. Emotive language
9. A name or the opening "Dear Diary"
10. Appropriate paragraphing.

Language conventions:

1. The conditional is used to express regrets, wishes and imaginary situations.
2. The style is conversational, so the tone is mostly informal, especially with teenagers.
3. The past tense is used for things that happened in the past, but often things that happen on the same day are in the present.
4. The language is often emotive (emotional) because the writer is letting all of his or her emotions out into the writing. It is very expressive.

Vocabulary

1. It is common to see strong language used to express dislike.
2. Phrasal verbs are very common in diaries.
3. The tone is mostly informal, but may become formal as the writer is older (vocabulary may be more complex).

Below is a diary entry from a high school boy who gets bullied. 308 words

Hey buddy,

It's me again. I only seem to talk to you when life is miserable, but that's when I need to talk the most. Why is the world filled with idiots? Everywhere I go, I'm surrounded by them, like I'm swimming in an ocean of stupidity.

So today, the usual cretins come along at lunch and pour my water all over my sandwich. They stand around laughing, and I sit there, like some stupid baby who doesn't know what to do, being laughed at. I should list that as my best subject - humiliation. I would get an A+ without even trying. I should do a degree in it. I would be the best student they have ever seen.

Why does this always happen to me? Why do these people hate me so much? I have never done anything to anyone. Would things be different if I were a jock or some stupid pretty boy? How am I supposed to put up with this for the next two years?

If only I could escape this. I want to get out, scream out, lash out! I wish I could stop the world - I want to get off. I know there isn't much I can do. I have to wait this out, but what happens after graduation? Is this what my life is going to look like? If this goes on in university, I will give up and move to a mountain in South America. It can't be any worse than here.

I never saw this kind of life coming when I was a kid. I was happy. I had friends. When did all this suddenly come up? Should I let my parents in on this? Dad would never understand. It will only be a let down for him. I'm a let down to myself. Here's hoping I turn invisible tomorrow.