

Writing to Entertain: Anecdotes II

Now that you are familiar with the parts of an anecdote, it is your turn to put your own anecdote together. Answer the following questions in order to write your **beginning—set the stage of your story**. Don't worry about making anything sound perfect. Just get the ideas out! If you need help, read the example below each.

1. Where were you? _____

Ex. I was in my elementary school's cafeteria, which was also where assemblies were held at our school.

2. When did it happen? _____

Ex. I was in the fourth grade. It happened at our school's talent show.

3. How did you feel at the beginning? _____

Ex. I was so excited to be able to sing in front of the entire school at the talent show.

Now you are ready to get to the interesting part of your story. Answer the following questions in order to write the middle of your story.

4. What happened? _____

Ex. While I sang "The Greatest Love of All" by Whitney Houston, I was "booed" by the students watching the talent show.

5. Who was there and saw it happen? _____

Ex. My sister and my teacher and my classmates were there.

Name _____ Period _____

6. How did you feel when it was happening? _____

Ex. I was humiliated, but I felt “the show must go on.” I wanted to burst into tears, but I was afraid to show them that they had hurt my feelings.

Finally, you are ready to write the end of your story. Answer the following questions to help you write the end (the point or lesson of the story).

7. How did the incident end? _____

Ex. I ended up finishing my song, and although I wanted to cry, I waited until I got off stage, and then I burst into tears.

8. How did you feel afterwards? _____

Ex. I felt like the world was ending. I felt like I had no friends and was so hurt that the students had done that to me.

9. What lesson did this teach you (or someone else)? _____

Ex. Although I never forgot this moment, it taught me that life goes on. We never know how the experiences of our life will affect us. What may seem like the end of the world is just a small moment of your life. It has made me the strong person I am today.

*In order to arrange your story, rewrite the answers to your questions on the next page. Be sure to include all parts of the story **in the order they appear** above.*

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

*Once you have finished copying your sentences, you are now ready to make it a real anecdote. Write your anecdote on a separate piece of paper, **putting it in paragraph form**. Don't be afraid to rearrange your sentences or add powerful words or dramatic elements to make the story better. Remember—audiences love drama! For help, re-read the example on page 7. Pay attention to how the sentences have been arranged and how more specific details have been added in order to make the story more interesting.*