

Writing Activity 6: Descriptive Journal

Step Follow along as the July 25, 2000 journal entry is read.

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July 25, 2000

I wasn't sure I wanted to go on a family vacation to San Diego this year, but surprisingly, this trip has turned out to be an exciting experience. Today, we slept in, had a nice breakfast in the hotel restaurant, and took a carefree stroll, stopping in cool little shops along the way.

Our travels eventually led us to the site I had been waiting for: the Pacific Ocean. I've seen pictures before, but it was hard to believe it could be so enormous. I stood there just looking out in amazement as the waves gently rolled in to touch the sand, then pulled back out again. The waves moved like this over and over. The sun was shining; it glistened on the water like hundreds of shiny diamonds. If only they were real, I would bottle them up, take them home, and sell them to the highest bidder. I could be rich!

Even though the diamonds were only figments of my imagination, the ocean was really neat. As I stood with my feet in the sand, I felt the warm breeze against my skin and breathed in the smell of salt water and fish from the harbor.

There were boats of every shape and size docked at the harbor's marina. I thought about all those boats used by so many different people for so many different purposes. Some people were using boats to sail and have fun. While others, like fishermen, used their boats to earn their livings. It was fun reading the boats' names. My favorite boat, a large, white sail boat with a blue stripe along the side, was named "The Sailing Samantha."

People who live in San Diego can see the ocean all the time. They probably don't realize how lucky they are to live close to such a great place. It makes me wonder if there are things I see everyday around home that I take for granted. When we get back, I think I need to look at my surroundings in a whole new way. Maybe I'll even see a few diamonds I never noticed before.

Step There are several things to keep in mind as you plan and write your journal entry. Remember, a good journal entry has the following parts:

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- a date
- a description of the sights and sounds of the people or events
- a description of your feelings
- a beginning, middle, and end

Step Use the following prompt to complete the prewriting and writing activities:

3

Think about the most important day of your life. Describe this day, or part of a day. What made this day so important? Include details so that others will know more about this memorable day.

Step Complete the graphic organizer for a journal as your prewriting activity. Use your graphic organizer to help you think through your journal entry.

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JOURNAL

What day will you write your journal entry about?

Why are you writing about this day?

Who was there?

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

**What
Happened?**

First:

**What
Happened?**

Next:

**What
Happened?**

Then:

Finally:

How did it make you and others feel?