

Writing help:

Informal language for a Blog Entry about a day out

Language

Some important informal elements are:

- The use of contractions (It's, There's, He'd ...)
- The use of everyday expressions and colloquial language (You'll never guess...)
- Informal use of punctuation (use of exclamation, questions, abbreviations like ASAP, DIY, "I had three pieces of cake there! :- ")
- The use of personal postscripts or pet words/ phrases (va-va-voom!)

Content

A blog is a dynamic and informal type of writing. In this way, you should not write a very formal description of an idea, story or theme. On the contrary, you should write a brief and catchy selection of language to send the reader the information in a easy-going way.

The topics are usually personal and trendy, a blog entry is similar to an entry in a personal diary but written and posted online. Each entry can be like a chapter in a series.

Paragraph organization

The paragraph organization of a blog entry is usually similar to any other kind of short school essay: an introduction, the body of the text and a closing paragraph. Each paragraph has its own characteristics.

Opening paragraph - Introduction

In the introduction, you should state the topic for your entry. Try to do it in an attractive and original style. You may use a catchy sentence or an open question.

ex. Have you ever been to a city where 800 languages are spoken?

You'll never guess where I was this weekend...

This part of the text should be short, so do not write more than two or three sentences as an opening paragraph. You can include some curious information about your topic and a brief idea of the story or theme you are going to develop in the entry.

Body of the text - Develop the idea

In the body of the text you must develop the central idea. Here you should explain, describe and give details. It is necessary that you use linkers to give cohesion to your writing. The verb tenses necessary will be "used to" for past habits and state of things, past simple tense for specific and particular actions in the past, and present tense for those things that are still true in the present. You should also remember to include specific vocabulary and collocations related to the topic.

Anecdotes and personal opinion are accepted here, remember that a blog entry is usually informal and quite personal.

Closing paragraph - Conclusion

In the closing paragraph, you will need to manage some concluding linkers, too. As in the introduction, try to be brief (no more than two or three lines would be perfect).

You can include your opinion or even recommendation, and you can end your entry announcing your next "chapter", since blog entry are frequently seriated. You can use a personal pet sentence or expression as a farewell.