

YEAR 5 WRITING TEST (allow 40 minutes)

Today you are going to write a narrative or story.

The idea for your story is 'CHALLENGE'.

Your story might be about a challenge you or another person faced at school, in sport or in a hobby. It can be a serious, genuine contest or a fun challenge—from finishing a walkathon to the first high dive.

It could be a challenge in which a person has to achieve something in extreme weather or a new environment—such as learning to ski.

It may be about facing a personal challenge and making a speech or being part of a team challenge, such as getting into a book of records.

Your story could be about different people in challenging situations. Think about the reasons why people take on challenges.

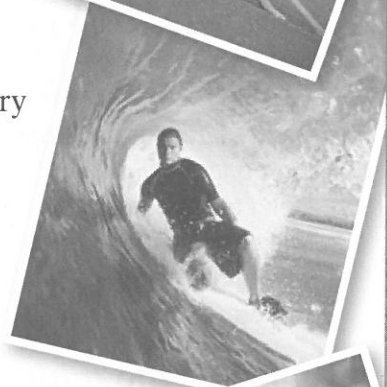
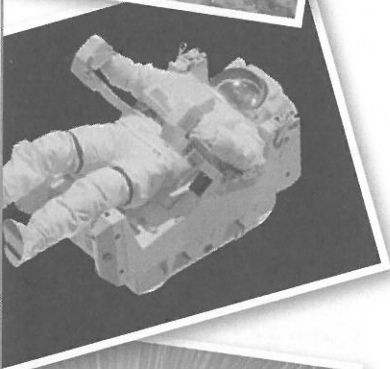
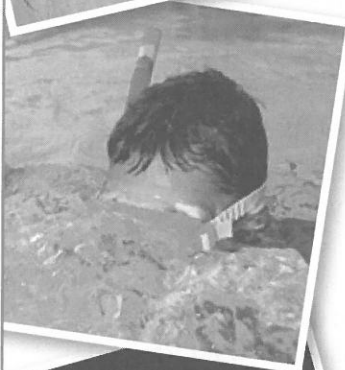
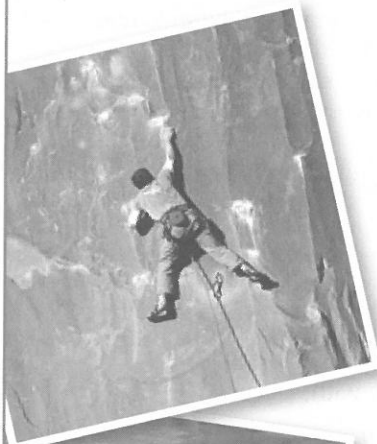
Before you start writing

Give some thought to:

- where your story takes place
- the characters and what they do in your story
- the events that take place in your story and the problems that have to be resolved
- how your story begins, what happens in your story, and how your story ends.

Don't forget to:

- plan your story before you start writing
- write in correctly formed sentences, and take care with paragraphing
- choose your words carefully, and pay attention to your spelling and punctuation
- write neatly but don't waste time
- quickly check your story once you have finished.



YEAR 5 WRITING TEST

Check the Writing section (www.nap.edu.au/naplan/about-each-domain/writing/writing.html) of the official NAPLAN website for up-to-date and important information on the Writing Test. From 2008 to 2010 students were required to write a narrative text and from 2011 to 2013 a persuasive text was required. In 2013 teachers, parents and students were advised that the 2014 Writing Test would be either persuasive OR narrative. The 2014 and 2015 Writing Tests were persuasive. The type of text for 2016 will again be either persuasive OR narrative so students should prepare for both. You can also find marking guidelines on the NAPLAN website that outline the criteria markers use when assessing your writing. Sample Writing Tests are also provided.

Tips for writing narrative texts

These tips will help you get the best possible marks for your writing.

- ▶ As you write your story keep in mind that **stories have a beginning, a middle and an end**. It sounds simple but many stories fail because one of these three parts is not well written!

Planning

- ▶ Write about something you know because the ideas will come more easily! Don't try to write about something you don't know a lot about.
- ▶ Even though you might know your topic, still take a moment to jot your ideas down on a piece of paper. Write down the order in which things happen. A good idea is for each of your points to be the topics of your paragraphs.

Step one: the beginning

- ▶ Don't start with *once upon a time*—that's too boring!
- ▶ Don't tell the reader too much in the beginning. Make the reader want to read on to find out more. The beginning should introduce a problem to be solved.

Step two: the middle

- ▶ The middle of your story should have events that make solving the problem more difficult or challenging.
- ▶ Use a setting you are familiar with: home, school, sport, holiday place, shopping centre.
- ▶ Sometimes it is wise to choose characters that are like people you know because they are easier to imagine. You don't have to use their real names—probably best not to!
- ▶ Make your story interesting by using your imagination, but don't try to fill it with strange and ridiculous events.

Step three: the end

- ▶ The ending is the hardest because it has to have something to do with the beginning.
- ▶ Never end your stories with:
and it was just a dream
I was saved by a superhero—or by magic
I was dead
and they lived happily ever after!
Endings like these just tell the marker you don't have a good way to end your story.

Review

- ▶ Never forget to give yourself a few minutes when you've finished writing to read through your story. This is the time to check spelling and punctuation, and put in words that have been accidentally left out! This is an important part of the process so don't rush it.

Classic fairy tales often provide excellent examples of simple yet effective narrative structures. Consider *The Three Little Pigs*. It starts with a problem—the wolf, who wants to eat the pigs. The pigs try to make themselves safe by building houses.

The first pig builds a house of straw and the wolf almost gets that pig.

The second pig builds a house of sticks—stronger and safer than a house of straw—but the wolf almost gets two pigs this time.

The third pig builds a house of bricks—stronger and safer than houses of straw or sticks—and the wolf cannot blow it over. The wolf has another plan. He knows how to get into the house—down the chimney. The pigs are trapped but they come up with a plan—light a fire and boil a pot of water. The wolf comes to a terrible end but the pigs are safe: problem solved!