

A. Purpose

The purpose of the recount is to inform or entertain by retelling past events or experiences.

B. Types

- Personal
- Factual

C. Context

- Subject matter: focus is on a specific person, place or event.
- Roles and relationship: the writer may or may not know the readers.
- Medium: journal, recount of excursion, letters and diaries, anecdote
- Mode: written

D. Text

How to write the recount:

- Structure
 - › Orientation: the writer informs the reader of the details concerning the who, when and where of the event or situation.
 - › Events:
 - » arranged in order
 - » each point relates to one particular event
 - » personal comments expressing the writer's feelings or impressions about the situation
 - » re-orientation: concludes with a personal comment.
- Vocabulary
 - › Personal, emotive and descriptive words are used.
 - › Personal e.g. *I, we*
 - › Emotive e.g. *spectacular, worst destruction*
 - › Descriptive e.g. *tremendous roar*
- Grammar
 - › Action Verbs e.g. *crashed, played*
 - › Usually written in the past tense e.g. *lived on the island*
 - › Cause and effect structures e.g. *due to, because of, as a result*

Townsend, Quill & Oosterbroek,
Text Types: A writing guide for
students, Farr Books, 2006.

Example

Visiting Kurnell

Title

On Wednesday 15th April Year 5 went to Kurnell to visit Captain Cook's landing place in Australia.

Orientation

We travelled by bus leaving at 9.30 am and arriving at 10.00am. During the journey everyone felt very excited and we interviewed some of our class to record their feelings.

At Kurnell we saw a monument to Captain Cook and his crew. We were surprised at the size of the statues and how real they looked. Some of the class took photos for us to use in our journals.

While we were having morning tea we sat in an area that gave us a spectacular view of the bay. We saw huge container ships leaving the terminals and wondered what cargo they carried to distant countries.

Later we went for a bushwalk along the Muru Trail. Unfortunately it began to rain, but it only lasted for a short time. Along the way we saw three kinds of Banksias, including Golden Banksia and Old Man Banksia which has serrated leaves.

Series of events

After lunch we played near the ocean which was very rough. The waves crashed loudly and they looked like milk splashing into the bottom of a cup. We found some old bones and shells of pippies.

Later we continued our bushwalk. Along the trail we saw enormous termite nests in the trees, as well as scribbly gums, wattle blossoms and bottlebrush. Part of the track led us across a long low wooden bridge that spanned the rippling water of a creek. Eventually it wound round to the area where our bus was waiting for us.

After a long journey back to school, we arrived a tired but happy group. What a great day it had been!

Re-orientation