

Welcome to blogging:

These writing exercises are designed to help you sharpen your powers of observation and develop the habit of writing. The following exercises are worth trying.

These will be your blog entries, consecutively, to be posted on your blog for checking on given due dates. Make sure you complete them on time.

First Day: Describe a person or scene that has impressed you -- your younger sister learning to ride a bike, Grandfather jogging with Grandmother, a toddler taking his first steps, a man who falls into a mud hole but comes out smiling, etc.

Second Day: Try an exercise in narration. In your journal write down something that is happening. Narrate what happened when you watch a championship game at the Araneta Coliseum. Or maybe you sat next to long lost friend in the jeepney on your way home. Or your bus was held up by highway robbers.

Third Day: Write a paragraph about a new word or phrase you have discovered in book or newspaper. This is an exercise in defining. Examples of words or phrases are politicking, “dagdag-bawas”, apartheid, waste management, etc.

Fourth Day: Choose somebody who is outstanding in the entertainment world, academe, local or national politics, sports, beauty contest. Write a paragraph justifying why you chose that person.

Fifth Day: Write about a process. Some suggestions are: How to review for a major exam; how to prepare for a job interview, how to haggle with a fish vendor, how to get along with a difficult person.

Sixth Day: Try to assess or evaluate people, events, or things in a 10-sentence paragraph. It may be a TV program, a teacher, a subject in college, or a public official.

Seventh Day: Try to compare or contrast by noting the similarities and difficulties you find in people, things, or events. Some examples are: two TV networks, two senators, two TV announcers, two teachers, two plants, etc.

Eighth Day: Try to analyze the causes or effects of one of these suggestions: truancy, voter enthusiasm or apathy, losing a boyfriend or girlfriend, academic success or academic failure.

Ninth Day: Carefully observe and list some of the issues that need to be addressed. Examples are: polluted rivers, terrible traffic, cutting down trees, destroying wildlife, corruption in public office, drug-related crimes. Write down what you would do to change things.

Tenth Day: Look at yourself for a change. List some positive and negative traits you probably have taken for granted and write paragraph assessing your personality.