

A Letter for a Time Capsule

Letting People in the Future Know about This Unusual Spring

Subject _____ Class _____ Date _____

Summary

A time capsule is usually a box with everyday objects and information in it. When people in the future open the time capsule, they learn about life from an earlier time. This school year has been like no school year ever. Future generations will be curious to know, "What was it like?" In this project you will decide what objects (books, toys, games, clothing) you would put into a time capsule. You will also write a letter so that someone in the future would understand what life is like today and why you chose those items. Your letter will help people in the future know what this time of quarantine has been like.

Writer's Purpose

Your purpose is to explain. You want future readers to know what the COVID-19 lockdown has been like for you. By explaining why you chose your time capsule objects, you can let people know about this unusual time.

Writer's Role

You are writing as yourself, someone who knows what it is like to live in the time of a quarantine.

Audience

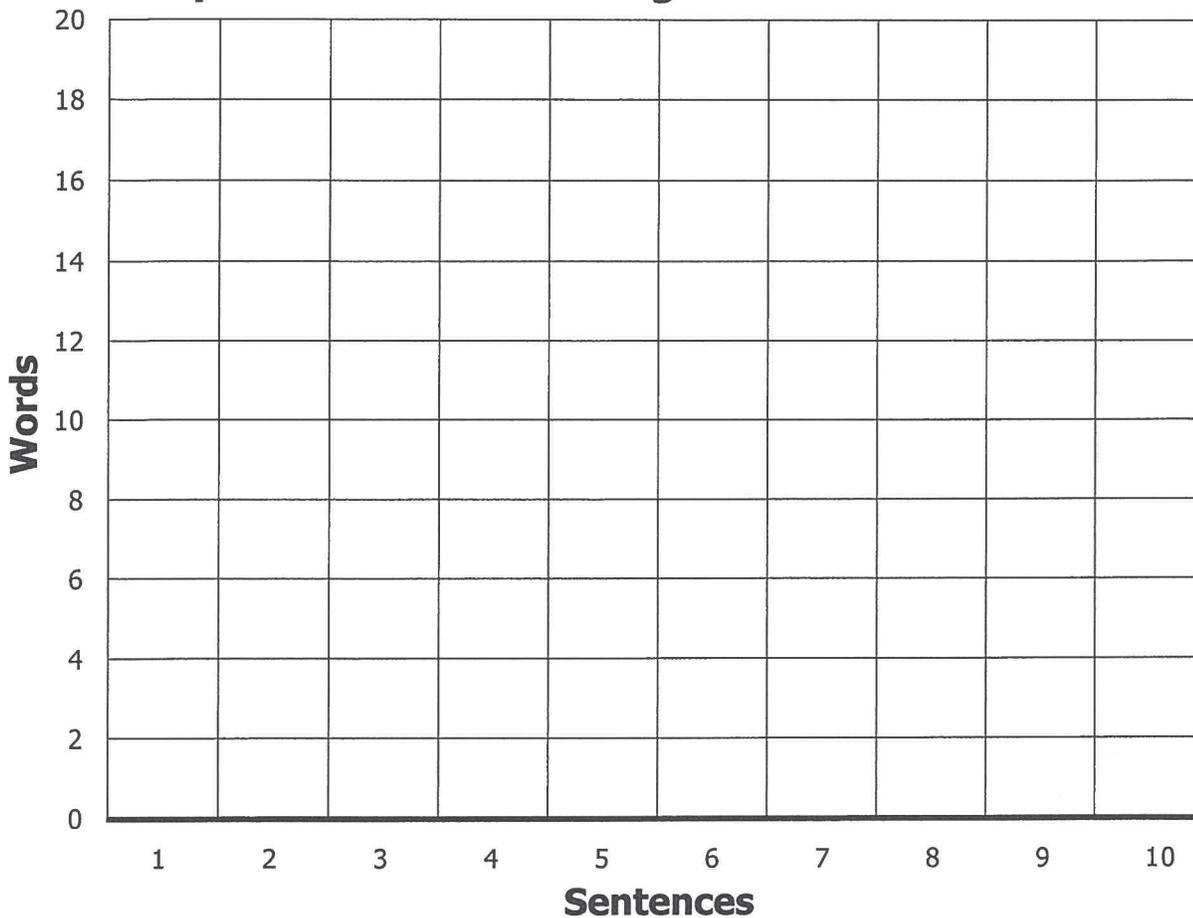
Your readers will be people in the future. They may be students like you, teachers, parents, or other adults who will be interested in learning about this time from you.

Form

Your time capsule will have 2-3 objects in it plus your letter to a future reader. As a class, we will talk about what objects might be good to put into the time capsule. But you will pick the objects that are most important for your time capsule. You might choose schoolwork you are proud of, a toy, a game, a book or magazine, a drawing, or some other object. But the objects must fit into a shoebox. It will also contain a letter explaining the importance of the objects in the time capsule. Your letter will be in friendly letter format.

<p>Focus Correction Areas</p>	<p>The letter for your time capsule will have these FCAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Letter Format</u> (make sure your letter has a date, greeting, body, closing, and signature) • <u>2-3 Objects Explained</u> (tell what is significant about each of the objects in this time of quarantine) • <u>Vary Sentence Beginnings</u>
<p>Procedure</p>	<p>To prepare for and complete your time capsule letter, we will do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type One Writing: Draw and label at least three things you might put into a time capsule that would help people in the future know about this time. • We will discuss your ideas and make a list of categories to choose from, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Toys</u> <u>Games</u> <u>Books</u> <u>Sports Equipment</u> <u>Drawings</u> <u>Personal Items (clothing, notebooks, devices)</u> • Type One Writing: Describe one piece of schoolwork that you might place into your time capsule and why you choose it. • You will have time to select one piece of schoolwork and 1-2 other objects for your time capsule. With at least one partner, you will have a chance to talk about your items and explain why they are important and answer questions from your partner. • Draft your letter. • Read your letter out loud in a one-foot voice, and make any changes you feel will improve it. • Use the Sentence Variety Worksheet to list the first word of each sentence. Avoid starting two sentences in a row with the same word. • Work with a partner to get feedback on your letter; double-check your FDAs to make sure you have done a good job in those areas. • Write a second draft with all your improvements.

Graph for Sentence Length



Sentence Beginnings

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____