

English 100/ T. Dean

Sample – Essay #1 Remembered Event – Prewriting Part I Concise pages 40-42.

This is from a student whose essay ended up being a great success. His prewriting petered out a bit at the end, but the rest is solid.

This is the feedback I gave him: *“I get the feeling you had fun writing this! Yes? I love the local style dialogue. Be sure to build some of that into the narrative part of your essay. What a detailed and reflective first pre-write. This has a lot of potential as a topic for this first essay because of the reflective part about the dynamics with your family members. Great choice. Have fun developing your ideas with the next prewriting exercise. “*

10 specific events from your past List:

- Waimanu Kayak Trip Started out rough
- Crashed family van in to neighbor’s garage 5 years old
- Jumped in a river in Maui, severed my big toe
- Waimanu trip lost my dog Datsun
- First kiss with my wife life change forever
- Tree house sibling rivalry
- Finding my first dog in a dumpster
- When we made French toast the wrong way
- Fishing Ahole’hole from da pasture
- Buying my first dog

Sketch the Story

Uncle was visiting from Maui and asked if I wanted to stay with them for a few weeks. Of course, I said yes but it was up to my parents. My parents let me go. I got to go to Maui and I had a blast with my cousins. I could remember how it was that first night; I really missed home. The days after that were awesome. I played, watched my older cousins play football, and went to the beach. One day I went swimming with my older cousin and my Uncle Ray told him

not to take me to the river next to the football field. He said that there was a lot of rubbish in that water. We went swimming in the river anyway, I jumped right in and cut my foot wide open. All I remember was a tug and looking down at the river, then seeing that the water was red.

Explore a revealing or pivotal moment

“Keiki like go swimming today?” my cousin Tim called out from down stairs.

“Oh Yah! wea we going?”

“Ah no worries we go see” said Tim.

Before we left Uncle Ray called Tim over. I did not mean to be nosey, but I was right around the corner. I over her uncle Ray tell Tim to stay away from a certain river. Tim just responded “yah, yah” and on our way we went. First things first, we had to go pick up Tim's girlfriend.

We pulled up to this old run down house a few minutes away. It looked like it was built in the 1800's. The roof was hanging down on the ends, and the paint was almost non existence on the exterior walls. “Stay here” Tim said. Yah, whatever I thought in my head. Me and his little brother were playing on the game boy anyway.

It was an extremely Hot day! The sky was blue as could be, with almost no clouds. The Van was a hot box. I opened the door as soon as Tim jumped out of the Van. We must of waited an hour before he came out.

“Oh! That took forever” I said.

“Yah, no worries”

Finally off we went again.

We pulled in to a base ball/ football park. I think it was not far from my Uncles home. As soon as we parked and got out someone shouted, “Ohh Braddah Tim.” Before I could ask if this was the park we were not suppose to be at, Tim was gone. We parked in a stall right next to the river. It was hot. I did not even try to stop him or talk to him. I was over it.

“Come on David lets go swim” I called.

David replied “Ah I no think we suppose to swim ovah hea”

The thought did cross my mind, “Why?” this must be the place I was not suppose to go to.

“Dad no let me swim ovah hea, I don't know why”

“K we go check um out den”

With no more argument we were on our way down to the river. I thought it looked clean.

The River was narrow and looked more like a stream to me. The banks were muddy red and there was no way to walk into the water. We would have to jump in! No more waiting, my shirt was off I was going in. David, without a word followed suit. He bet me in. That's when it happened. I took a leap in to the river.

Oh no did I land on something? With my first step I looked down at the water, and turned to David. He was still under the water. When he emerged I yelled out to him to come over. "Whats up keik's, oh what's that, the water red brah." I looked down and the river was red behind me. I pulled my left foot out of the water, and blood was pouring out!

Reflect on the conflict and significance

My foot was throbbing in pain as I waited in the emergency room with my Aunty Lani. I though Tim was so cool because he played football, and always wore jerseys. I just wanted to hang with him and be one of the boys, but where was he now? In his eyes, I guess I was just a dumb little kid even though we were only two and a half years apart. When my foot got cut, and I found out that he was just using me as a way to get out of the house I felt betrayed, unaccepted and disliked. I felt like kicking him in the face! How could he not be here!?! Feelings of anger, frustration, and irritation overwhelmed me along with the sharp agonizing pain coming from my foot with every movement that I made. I was getting tired. My Aunty kept talking to me but, the words she said were not coming to me. What was this feeling? My muscles felt weak and a tingling sensation filled my body. "Aunty I feel tired." She replied "Yah boy, you lost a lot of blood."

Re-imagine the place

It was a hot summer day in Kahaului Maui. From the car to the river, the pavement was so hot you could only step on it for a few seconds with your bare feet. The sky was bright blue with almost no clouds. It was so hot, you could probably fry an egg on the road. The grass was brown everywhere except near the water spigots. I was not used to that coming from Hilo where it was always green. It was a perfect day for a swim.

The river was in a park near a football field. The football teams were scrimmaging and you could hear the clash of the helmets, even the coaches screaming. The river bank was muddy, red dirt color, the kind that stains your clothes. I remember an old Filipino man fishing up stream. There was also a family barbequing in the fire pit at the park, and the sweet smell of Kalbi filled the air.

Research Visuals

*Need pics from the event → You might be able to grab a pic from the internet and just let your teacher know that because you are at work you don't have actual pics from the even.

Song's of that time period

- Mr Pole Bendah by Rising Tide
- Guava Jelley by Ka'au Crater Boys
- Tropical Hawaiian Day by Ka'au Crater Boys

Describe people

Uncle Ray is six feet three inches, a very tall man to me at the time. Slender build like a marathon runner. He was a champion cross country runner in high school. Curly gray hair on his head and in his beard. Handsome French, Irish man with hue green eyes. Always wore a T-shirt and long jean pants. An electrician by trade. He always looked as if he was going to work.

Tim, Uncle Ray's second son, at 15 years old he was tall. Six foot with dark hair that almost look black. He had a medium build and long legs. Tim was a tough guy, always getting into fights. Growing up with three brothers, I can see how that was almost second nature to him. He loved football, like his older brother he was an upcoming football star. He always wore sports jersey's and jean shorts.

David was Uncle Ray's youngest son, he was 12. Being the baby, he was a little bit spoiled in my opinion. He had dark brown hair and always had a buzz cut, no particular hair style. He was just sprouting up, and was shorter than me at the time. His voice would crack with a little squeak every once in a while. He loved his surf shorts and surf brand T-shirts. Always eager to go home and ride his go-kart around the community. When he was not riding his go-kart, he was glued to his game boy.

My dad is heavy set, six foot one inches tall, and a little thick in the center compared to his brothers. Curly brown hair with a full beard, a touch of white here and there. He has emerald green eyes and a darker complexion compared to his brothers, because he was always in the sun. Dad was always happy and cheerful, and always played with us. When it was time to be stern he was and you stood clear or those big hands.

Create a Dialogue

“Tim! Tim! Timmm!” I yelled as I tried to walk to the road.

“What?” he screamed back.

“Tim get over here, Keiki's in trouble.” David yelled out to his brother.

Tim came running over frantically, “What? What's going on?”

“My foot Tim! Look at my big toe.”

He swore in surprise, “ What happened Keiki?”

“I don't know? I jumped off the river bank into the water, and saw that the water was red.

“Oh shit” as he grabbed my foot.

“What did you step on!”

I replied “I don't know? I never even felt um till now.”

“Ah shit it's really bad, can you move our toe?” Tim said.

“No it won't move, why is it hanging?” I asked.

Tim replied “I don't know Keiki, it's cut really deep! My dad is going to kill me! Come on, let's go, your losing a lot of blood! Here, put this sock on your foot and wrap um in the towel.”

Research People

Hey cuz, so what do you think about what happened? How come we went there of all places when Uncle Ray said not to go over there?

Ah cousin, I sorry. I screwed up. We swim over there all the time. My dad knew that it's not a good place cause everybody parties over there at nigh so the ground dirty, and they throw bottles in the river. Was just a way to go hang with my girl, and my friends. I wanted to go cruse with my friends at the time. Was supposed to be watching you guys, and take you beach but that nevah happen. Sorry cuz. I know what happened I can never take back!