As you’ve probably heard the adults around you say a lot recently, these are ‘unprecedented’ times. This is a moment in history that you will never forget.

Try out some of these writing activities to capture your thoughts and feelings during lockdown.

**A letter to your future self**

Write a letter to your future self about this strange and new way of life.

Use the questions below to help you come up with some ideas, and then make a note of what each paragraph will be about, before you begin writing.

**Questions to spark your ideas**

* How long have you been in lockdown so far?
* Thinking back to when you heard that schools were closing, can you remember how you felt? Excited? Frightened? Or something else? How have your feelings changed?
* What do you miss most? What don’t you miss at all?
* What have been the highlights so far? What have been the most difficult aspects of lockdown?
* What have you learned about yourself that you didn’t already know? For example, are you more easily bored than you thought, do you like or dislike particular structures and routines, or have you learned something about your tolerance levels of other people’s behaviour, of change or of your self-discipline?
* How has your family reacted to life in lockdown? How have their lives changed? Have you learned anything about them that you didn’t know before?
* How have your friends reacted to life in lockdown? Have your relationships changed? What have you talked about or shared?
* What do you think you’ll remember most about this moment in history?

**Paragraph plan**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Paragraph** | **Topic** | **Notes** |
| **1** |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |

**A day in the life of during lockdown**

How do you spend your days in lockdown? Do you have any routines? Think about how you’re spending your time, perhaps focusing on a day you felt happy, and want to remember forever.

Fill in the boxes with notes about how you spent your chosen day in lockdown, before writing this up as a diary entry.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **0700** |  |
| **0800** |  |
| **0900** |  |
| **1000** |  |
| **1100** |  |
| **1200** |  |
| **1300** |  |
| **1400** |  |
| **1500** |  |
| **1600** |  |
| **1700** |  |
| **1800** |  |
| **1900** |  |
| **2000** |  |
| **2100** |  |

**Your diary entry**

Remind yourself of the conventions of diary writing, and then have a go at writing out your diary entry. Tick off the rules of diary writing, below, to make sure your writing is in the correct form:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Have I …** | written in first person? |  |
| written informally? |  |
| used emotive language? |  |
| written in the past tense? |  |
| written chronologically? |  |
| varied my use of time conjunctions and adverbials? |  |

**Dear diary …**

****

****

**Making the case for a life in lockdown**

Many people would argue that there are advantages to a life in lockdown. Do you agree? Write an argument for or against this viewpoint.

Before you write your argument, think of the arguments both for and against.

**The advantages**

* *It forces us to slow down and consider the things that matter in life.*
* **…**
* **…**
* **…**
* **…**

**The disadvantages**

* *Coping with change and uncertainty can be very unsettling, and this means that emotions are running high for everyone.*
* **…**
* **…**
* **…**
* **…**

**Concluding**

How will lockdown change us all, in your opinion?

Sum up the points you have made in support of your point of view.

*I agree / disagree that there are more advantages than disadvantages to a life in lockdown because …*

**Worry jar**

What have you found tough so far? Sometimes it’s useful to write all of these things down. Write down your worries on slips of paper and put them in an actual jar or write them into the jar below.



Now that you’ve written them down, how do you think you could make the worries a bit easier to cope with? Write down your ideas.

After a week, read them again to see if any can be removed and add any new ones. What happened which helped to ‘fix’ the old worries? Will you try those strategies again?

**Trying out the new you**

Make a note of any new things you’ve had a go at while you’ve been in lockdown.

What did you try? -> What happened? -> What will you try next?

**Reflect**

Which of those things you tried did you enjoy the most? Which did you learn the most from? Sum up what you have learned from these new experiences.

* …

* …

* …

**Ambitions**

Think big about the things you’d like to do once lockdown is over!

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Where will you explore? | What will you ditch from your life?  | What will you work hard at?  |
| What will you do differently? | Who will you spend your time with? | What will you prioritise? |
| What experiences would you most like to have? | Who will be involved in your plans and how? | What are your dreams for the future? |

**Capturing the moment**

You will have had a range of new experiences – exciting, sad, strange, silly or funny. Choose some of these and make a note of three of them here:

Which event was the …

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * funniest?
* scariest?
 | * most exciting?
* most confusing?
 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

Now choose **one** of these and write the story of what happened. Remember how to engage your reader, with interesting:

* settings
* characters
* a plot which builds to a climax and has an ending
* vocabulary choices
* imagery (metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole etc.).