

Lesson 4: MY JOURNAL by Lee McNamee

Assignment – Date: October 30, 2014

Directions: *Write a few ideas about a favorite food of yours.* Any favorite food!

I'm hungry so I am going to write about my favorite food, spaghetti. I love it. No matter how hungry I am, I can't eat sweets. I know most everyone loves: cakes, cookies, ice cream, and dessert food. Not me! I can eat them and even like them for a few minutes, but in no time at all I am looking for a salty cracker or some spaghetti. It is the only food that really satisfies me 100% of the time. How much do I like it? Well, no joke, I have been known to make a quick sauce late at night. I can eat a big dish of spaghetti and sleep like a baby. I don't know anyone who eats as much spaghetti as I do. As I said in the beginning, it is my favorite food! As a matter of fact, I think I will make some right now!

Teacher Response: Date: October 31, 2014

Your story is making me hungry! I like spaghetti, too. My favorite is spaghetti and meatballs. What's your favorite? I also like white clam sauce with garlic and red pepper. I like spaghetti because I love the combination of garlic and pasta. Unfortunately, I love desserts, too. My favorite is apple pie with vanilla ice cream. Can you see how **details** add **punch** to a story? I like how you started your paragraph. This introduction got my interest right away. Your ending does a nice job of wrapping up the story. As you will learn, a good introduction and conclusion are very important to an essay. You are a nice story teller...keep it up!

Lee's response: Date: November 30, 2014

I guess everyone likes Italian food. I also like meatballs, but NO CLAMS, please. I ate them once and got very sick. Maybe I'm allergic to them. I like spaghetti because I just like spaghetti! Desserts are low on my list of favorites. I get what you mean about adding punch to a story to make it more interesting and colorful. Thanks for the advice and encouragement. This dialogue journal has made me more interested in writing. To tell the truth, many of the kids in class say the same thing. I thought I would let you know how cool we think it is. So, thanks again! P.S. I use my grandmother's recipe. Everyone likes it. Want to try it?

Teacher Response: Date: December 1, 2014

I would love to try your grandmother's recipe, thanks. I will use it when I cook for our school international dinner.

I'm thrilled the class likes this approach to writing. It is satisfying to me to know that the class has arrived at the conclusion that they can have fun while they learn.

Lee's Response: Date: January 30, 2015

No problem. Grandma Siti will be pleased to share her recipe with you. Got to keep the family's traditional cooking alive and well. The international dinner is a perfect place for Siti's recipe, due to the fact she emigrated from the Middle East. Yes, it is great to write when it is both a learning experience and fun too. You have done well, Ms. Shine. No kidding. It has been really cool for our class.