

Ellis Island WebQuest: Diary Template

Name: _____

Role: You are an immigrant or an immigration official. Choose one of the two roles.

Task: You must *write a page from your diary*. Note that a "diary" is a private book where you write about things that happened to you, and what you thought or felt about them.

- If you have chosen to write *as an immigrant*, this page will represent the day when you arrived on Ellis Island and went through all the different stages, inspections and formalities. This was a unique day for you, and you will always remember it because of what happened to you.

- If you have chosen to write *as an immigration official*, this page will represent one particular day in your job inspecting, directing and helping people. Although you do the same job every day, you remember in particular this one day because of something unique that happened.

Notes before writing: use the notes from your worksheet, and try to develop them more fully.

1. Who are you? Note something about your origins, your education and your family.

2. What happened on this day? Note three events that made this day unique. For example, you met someone, someone had a problem, or someone made a chalk mark on your jacket.

3. How did you feel? Note at least three emotions or feelings that you had in relation to these events, about your past or about your future.

Organizing your writing:

4. A diary is a story about your past. Most often, a page from a diary tells about a sequence of events, thoughts or feelings. Note here all the verbs or expressions you think you will need to tell about your day on Ellis Island. Remember that you will be telling your story *in the past*.

You're ready! Now it's time to write the first draft of your diary page. Remember that a "first draft" is just your first version of your final composition. You should use all your notes and worksheets, and write out all your ideas from beginning to end. After you have finished, you can go back and check the verb tenses, look up any missing vocabulary in the dictionary, change or remove sentences that are too confusing, or add anything else that you think your composition needs. Good luck!

This activity can be found at:

<http://www.php.ac-orleans-tours.fr/www/anglais/fichiers/Webquests/benz/ellisland/ellislandwebquest.htm>