



For many students summer is a time for family trips, chores around the house, part-time jobs, summer school, swimming, camps, reading, movies, hanging with friends, computer games, staying up later, sleeping in

Another way for kids to have summer fun is to write something! Here is a list of ideas to help get started.

Keep a journal.

Preserve a running record of the highlights of your summer. Jot down anything you want to remember. Taking a trip or camping out or interviewing for a job? Make notes in your journal.

Take pictures.

Don't forget your camera. Good pictures are another form of note keeping.

Make lists.

What do you like? Cars? Boys? Girls? Fishing? Cooking? Shoes? Hunting? Catching insects? Reading? Traveling? Pick subjects and make lists of ways you could write about them. Keep the lists in your journal.

What do you like or not like about writing?

Be honest with yourself. If you think writing is boring, say so in your journal, but also say why you think it's no fun and what might make it more interesting. Do you like to write? Say that and explain to yourself why you do.

What do you like to read?

List your favorite book titles and decide why you like them. What are they about? Mysteries? Adventure? Nature? Science fiction? Joke books? Chapter books? Longer books? Graphic novels? Poetry? Nonfiction? Fiction? Decide which kinds of writing appeal most to you and jot them in your journal.

Pick out something to write.

Now you have a list of favorite subjects, a list of favorite books, and a description of why you like writing or what would make writing more interesting for you. It's time to write something.

Don't sweat it.

It's summer. Don't feel stressed about this. It's not an assignment, it's just something to do that you might enjoy. If you start a story and stop after a few lines, set it aside until you've finished cleaning your room or babysitting your sister or staying over with a friend or just plain putting it off. The story (poem, essay, novel) will wait until you're ready to come back to it. That's the nice thing about writing.

Try to finish something.

On the other hand, it doesn't pay to put it off all summer! If you check back on what you are writing fairly often, you'll be surprised by how much you can get done. Try to finish at least one thing. Maybe two or three. Maybe more.

You decide.

Summer is a good time to be your own boss about writing. You can write what you want, when you want, finish something if you want, or start several things and leave them all for later. By the time school starts, you may find that you've developed a habit of writing now and then and that it's a pleasant activity. You decide.

Have a good summer!