



Inspired by the Pam Conrad's book Pedro's Journal, fifth graders Allison and Eily imagined they were people who had been in a different time and place from history. The girls did some research, and they each wrote a story from their historical characters' points of view.



Read both stories below, and talk with a partner about where each writer succeeded most with her story's organization and voice.

What's organization?

- There is a strong introduction to the piece of writing
- The writing comes to a satisfying conclusion
- Transitions are used to move the idea along logically
- Paragraphs are written with purpose
- The introduction somehow links back to the conclusion
- Titling the piece effectively

What's voice?

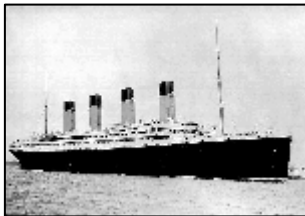
- The writing shows an awareness of an audience
- The writer shows a passion towards the topic
- The writer has used devices of style (such as figurative language), when appropriate
- The writer has captured a tone or mood (including humor) with words, when appropriate
- The writing shows awareness of perspective and point-of-view

My Experience on the Titanic

by Allison M., fifth grade writer

I have been through many good and bad experiences. Although, I must say, my experience on the Titanic is one I will never forget.

Click, clack, click, clack went my shoes as my family and I boarded the gigantic Titanic. It was April 10, 1912 and we were boarding from England. I couldn't wait to start a new life in New York. It seemed like my family had been saving our money forever, so we could get five tickets for my mom, dad, sister, brother, and me. And now we finally got to start our journey. I felt a little scared as I handed the man my ticket and stepped onto the "unsinkable" ship. The Titanic left the docks at noon. My brother, sister, and I ran to the side of the vessel to wave good bye to the place we once called home. Then, we searched for our cabin. We traveled second class. One second class ticket cost \$60, which is \$690 today.



When we found our cabin on E-Deck, I could not wait to see inside. It was a four- berth room with mahogany furniture and sofa-beds. It also had linoleum tile floors.

At dinner time, we went into the second-class dining saloon. It was a spacious room with paneling in sycamore. In the chamber, 440 people could be seated at any one time. The meals were prepared in the same galley as the first-class meals. The food was delicious.

Next, my mom and I went to the second-class public room. The second-class public room was a retreat for the lady passengers in second-class. It had brown carpet and mahogany. The

furniture was covered with tapestry and green silk draperies. We had a great time sitting in the decorated room talking.

After two days on the luxurious ship, there was reports of ice. The crew took small precautions, but they weren't panicking because the Titanic was said to be safe. Even though the crew believed it was secure, I was worried.

On April 14, the weather dropped. It was 11:40 pm when the lookouts in the crows nest spotted the iceberg. The bridge was alerted and the ship started to turn left with in 40 seconds. Then, the iceberg and the Titanic collided. The iceberg hit the vessel on the right side near the bow. Water was rising inside. Now, everyone was panicking.

On April 15, Captin Smith got orders to fill the lifeboats (women and children first). My mom, sister, brother, and I got on lifeboat #3 at 1:00 am. My dad got on lifeboat #16 at 1:35 am.

On the lifeboat, all I could think about was my dad. I didn't know if I'd ever see him again.

On April 18, I found my dad. It was a miracle! I thought we were seperated forever.

My adventure with the Titanic was one of my most frightful experiences. I am one of the luckiest people to have survived. How grateful would you have been if you survived the sinking of the Titanic?

My Titanic Experience

by Eily I., fifth grade writer

Although many life experiences are dreadful or exciting, mine is one nobody could ever forget!

Baaannng! Baaaannng! the sound of a shrill, defining bell welcomed us on to the unsinkable, luxurious Titanic! My family and I were going to make a new life in America. I knew America was going to be better than where we are now, South Hampton, England. It was April 10th 1912, when we climbed aboard, while other passengers were waving goodbye to friends and relatives down on the deck.

We had a room on a lower deck. There was first class, second class and third class. Tickets were expensive, about \$60, for one ticket. Some first class passengers were aristocrats wearing Paris's latest and finest designer dresses and suits while other third class passengers wore clothes they made themselves out of a steal fabric.

On the ship I marveled at one of the most luxurious ships on Earth. It had finely carved wood steps, elegant chandeliers and beautifully painted framed picture s. They called it "the wonder ship" and the "unsinkable ship". It was said this ship was one of three sister super liner ships. I just could not believe I was on an Olympic class passenger line!

My older sister and I shared a room, my younger sister shared a room with my mother and my dad had his own room. I ran in and jumped up on to the top bunk bed leaving my older sister with the bottom bunk. The room was very pleasing. It had one cherry wood dresser, a bunk bed made of matching cherry wood, a cushiony couch of tasteful fabric and smooth linoleum tile.

Before I knew it, it was April 14th and I was going to bed. I was absolutely weary from a day of joyful swimming. I felt I was so graceful at swimming,

I could be a dolphin flipping in the waves of the sea. I slowly dozed of to sleep, relaxing myself from an exhausting day.

"Wake up! Wake up!" called a voice as something or someone was jerking at my shoulder. The blurry figure of my mother was coming into focus. When I got out of my bed, she



told me to put on a lifejacket and head out to the deck. It was still April 14th, but it would soon be April 15th.

The Titanic had hit an ice burg off the coast of Canada while we were heading to New York from Queenstown, Ireland.

Hard to believe, it was very difficult for the Titanic to sink. The Titanic has two bottoms, the very bottom is made up of compartments. If one, two, three or even four of the compartments flooded it would be okay. The captain would pull a lever triggering a steel door to take out the water weighing down the large ship. If more than four compartments burst open, than it would be the end for the Titanic! The gigantic ice burg grinded into FIVE compartments!!! We had to face the terrible truth that we were going to sink!!!

Soon, the deck was flooded with people, some laughing and joking. I saw the captain come out, his face as solemn as a lost dog's. All the crew members could do now was evacuate the passengers. We scrambled into lifeboat number eleven like fish in to a barrel. We were lowered in to the water with a great jerk and a huge slap! I fell out with a yelp and I felt the chilling cold water under and above me. I struggled to get back in to the lifeboat, my heart beating as fast as a bird flapping its wings! A couple of adults helped me back in to the lifeboat, shivering and breathing.

It was now April 15th 1912, I gazed back at the "unsinkable wonder ship" as it slowly disappeared under the cold, black Atlantic water. Who could ever forget the Titanic's ending? I still remember this event clear as crystal. I think this event is the most dreadful and exciting experience out of all the others. I know the Titanic would never be forgotten!