

Writing

Ideas

A SELECTION OF PERSONAL WRITING TASKS FOR
SECONDARY CHILDREN



INTRODUCTION

What is the Writing over Time (WoT) project?

The WoT project is all about how children's writing, in the Merseyside area, has changed over time. To investigate this, samples of Merseyside children's writing has been digitised from the APU archive—the largest historical archive of children's reading, speech and writing. Similar data has also been collected and digitised from local partner schools from 2020-2022. The digitisation of this writing enables the comparison of writing before and after the Digital turn and implementation of the National Curriculum.

So what is this booklet for?

Not only does this research allow for the exploration of language and language change but it also facilitates an impact on the wider educational community through the transfer of research into tangible outcomes. We have therefore created this booklet complete with activities taken from the 1979-1988 APU writing tasks. It is a resource which can be used to support children's writing both in school and at home.

RULES



Think of a rule you have to obey. It could be a rule at school, a rule in your home, a rule in a game or a rule in a club you belong to. It may even be a law that everybody has to obey. What do you think about this rule? Describe it clearly. Then explore the reasons for its existence, saying either why you feel it is a good rule, or one you would like to see changed.

Some ideas to think about...

What is the rule? Choose the rule that you would like to talk about and describe what it is.

Where is it in place? Is it in a game or sport? Is it a law? Is it something you have to follow at home?

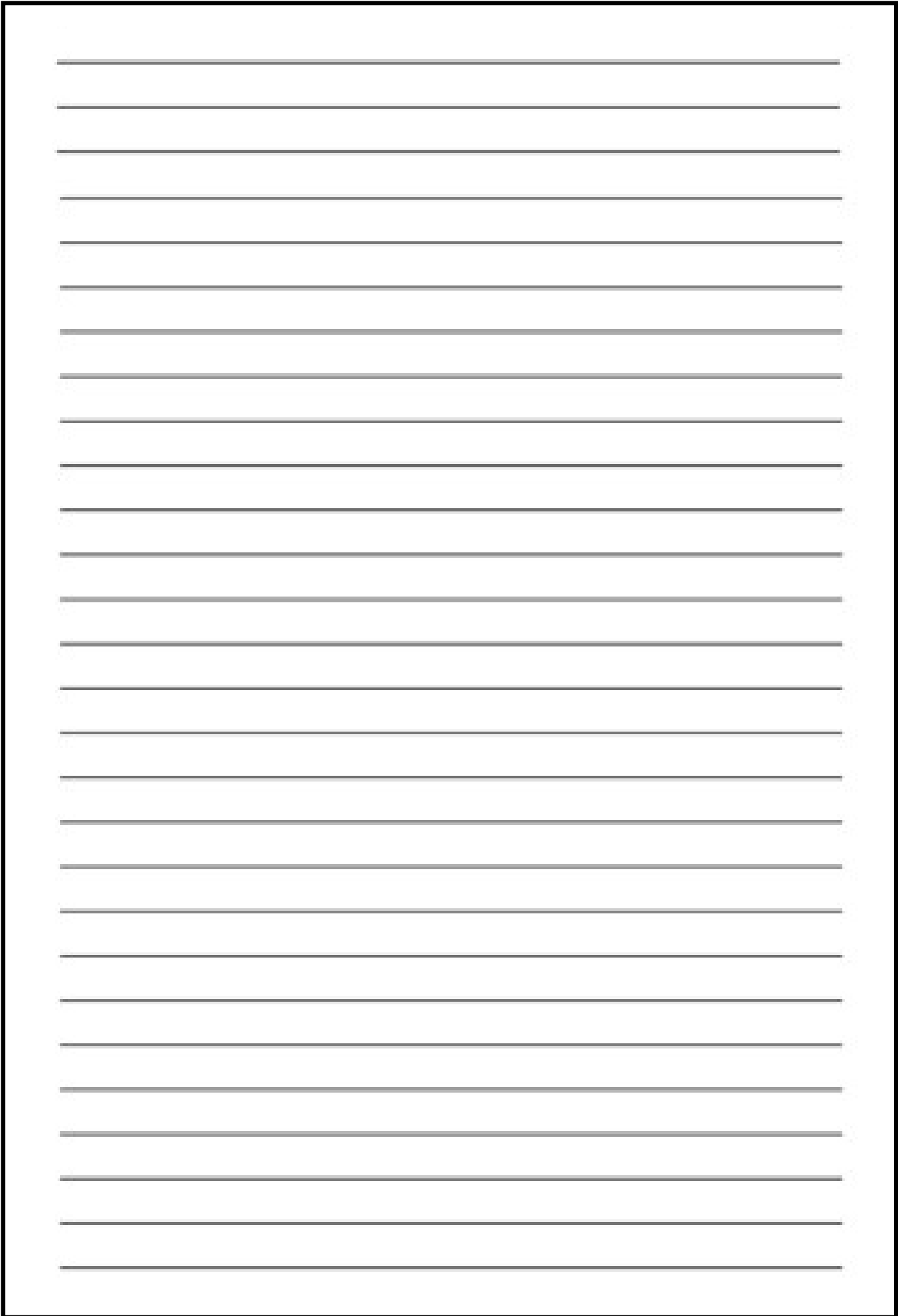
How is it followed? What things do you need to do to make sure you are sticking to this rule? Can you give some examples of how you follow it?

Why does it exist? Explore the reasons why this rule is in place. Does it keep people safe? Does it make sure a game or sport is played properly?

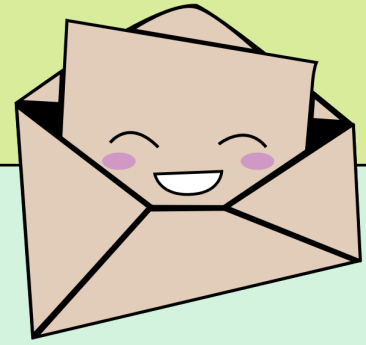
Your opinion: Discuss what you think about this rule. Do you think it is good? Why? Or do you disagree with it and would like to see it changed? Why?

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I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU



Write a short account about anything enjoyable, interesting, amusing, moving or exciting which has happened to you recently. Explain, as if to a close friend, what made the event memorable.

Some ideas to think about...

What happened? Did you visit somewhere? Did you learn something new? Did something funny happen with your friends? Did you win something?

Where did it happen? Where you at home? At school? At your friend's house?

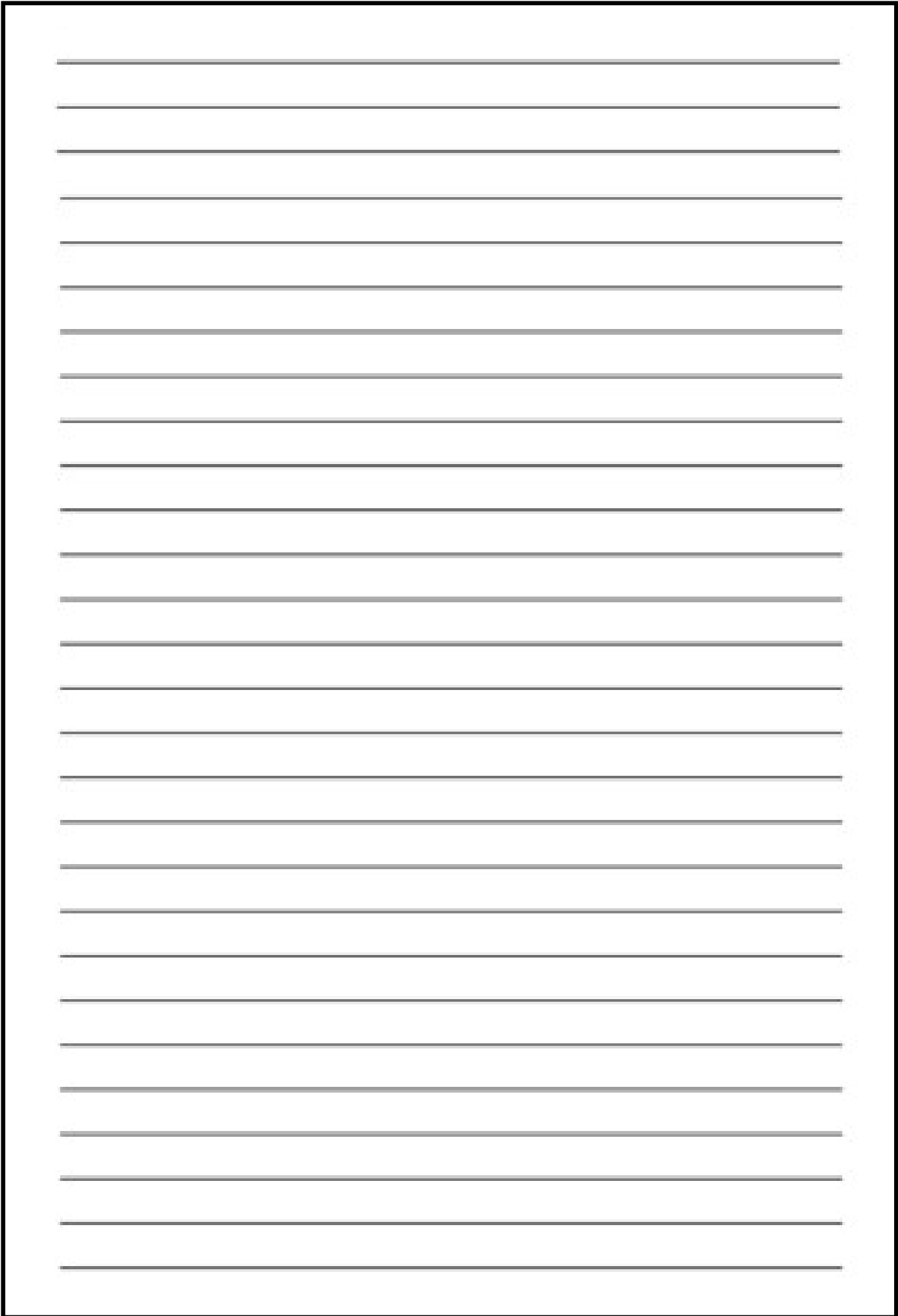
When did it happen? Was it last week? Yesterday?

Who were you with? If there was someone else with you, talk about who it was.

How did you feel? When this thing happened, how did it make you feel? Were you excited? Happy? Thrilled? Proud? Emotional?

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SOMETHING I AM GOOD AT



Think of something you are good at doing, perhaps to the extent of being an expert. Describe how it is done for the benefit of someone much less familiar with the process than yourself.

Some ideas to think about...

What is it? Choose something that you are good at. Is it a sport? Is it a game? Is it something that you can draw? Is it something you can cook?


When do you do it? Do you do this thing at the weekend? Every day? On a Thursday?

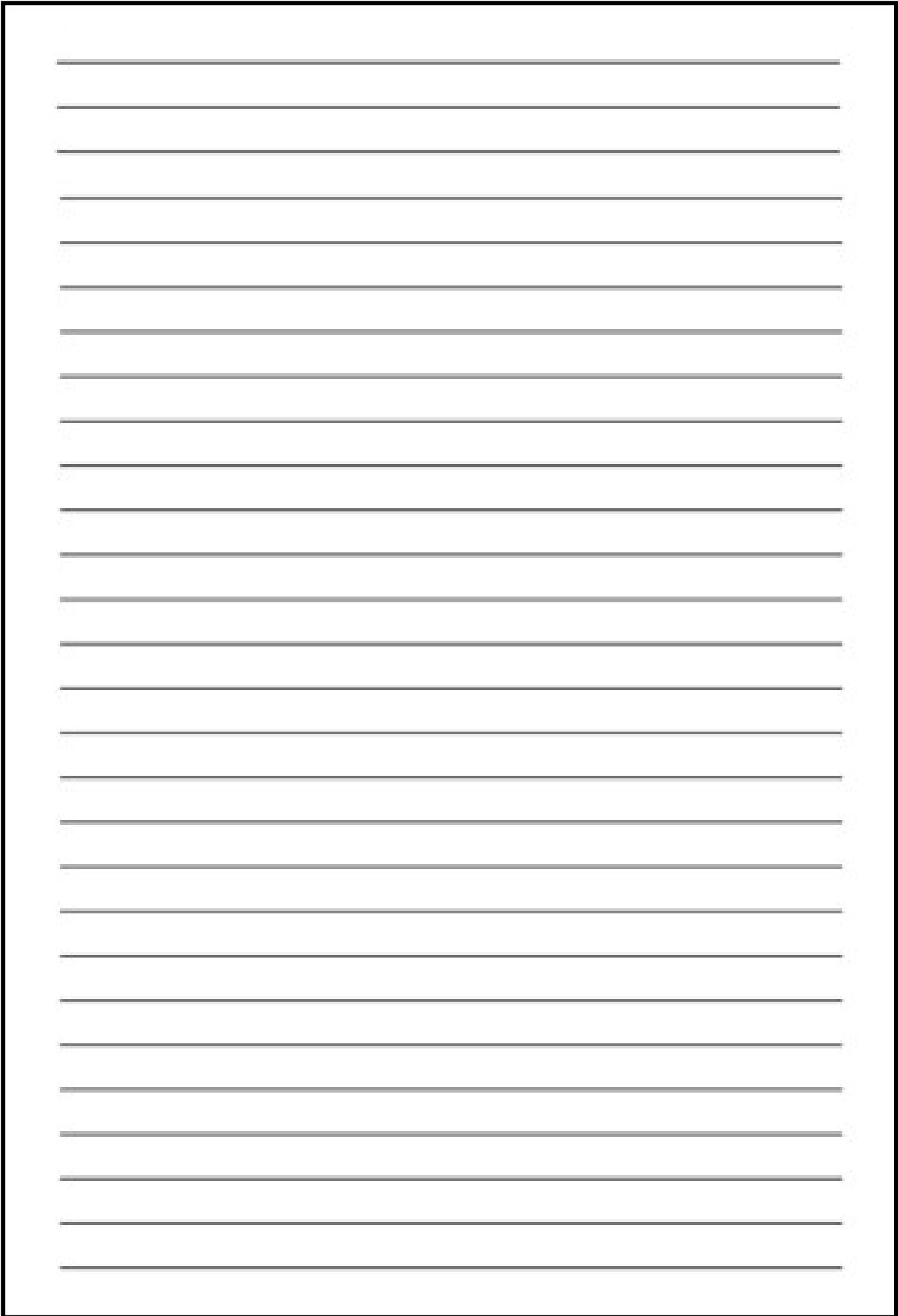
How did you become so good at it? Discuss why you became so good at doing this thing. Have you been doing it since you were very young? Did a family member teach you?

How do you do it? Give a description of how you do this thing that you are good at. Make sure you give plenty of detail so that the person reading is able to have a go!

What is good about doing it? Give reasons why you enjoy it or what is good about it.

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AN INTERESTING PERSON



Choose one of the following subjects to write about: The strangest or most interesting grown-up I have ever met OR a grown-up I would like to meet. Underline the subject you have chosen.

Some ideas to think about...

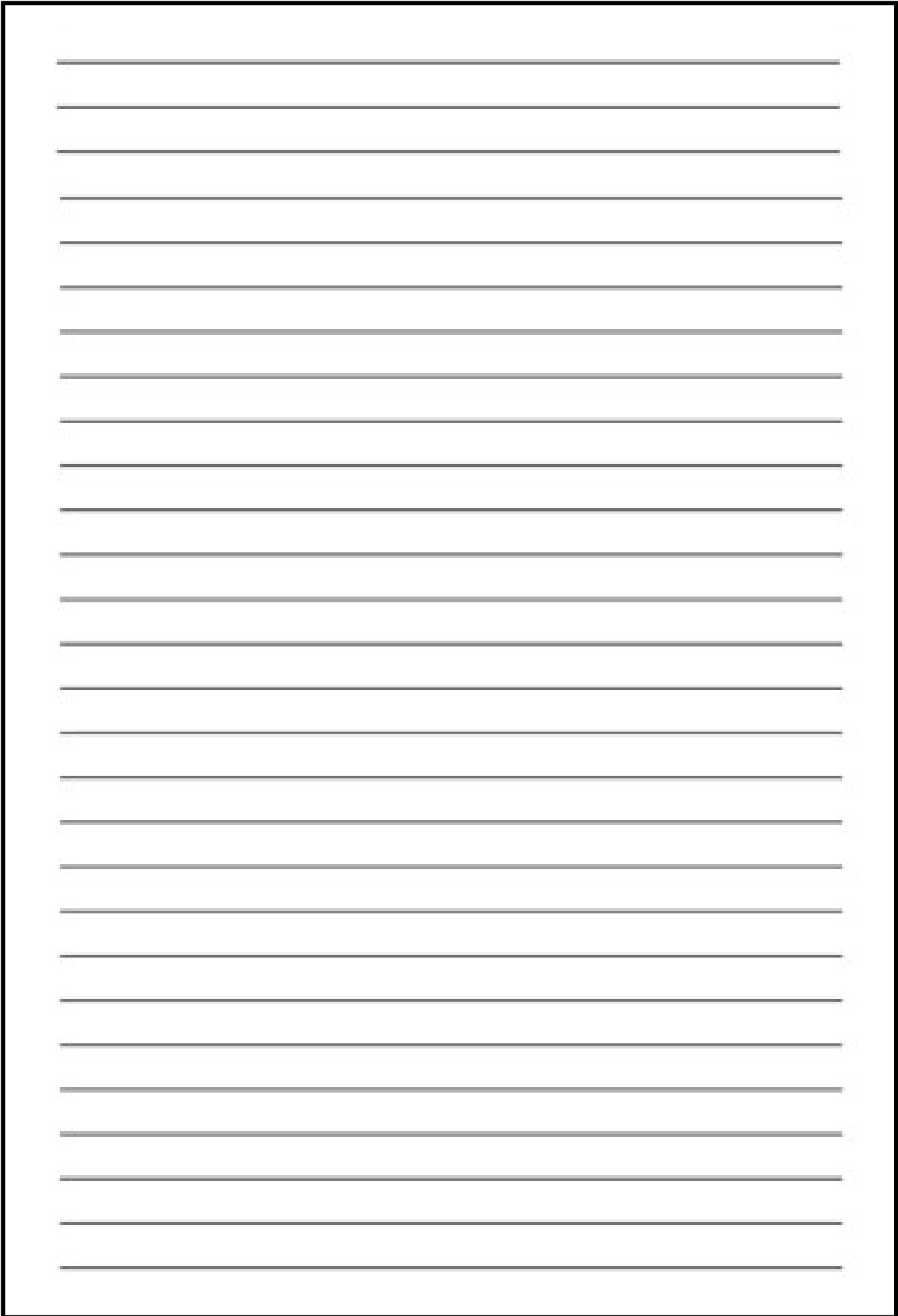
Which subject? First decide whether you are going to write about the strangest or most interesting grown-up you have ever met OR a grown-up that you would like to meet. Have a think of some ideas for each one and then choose your favourite.

The strangest or most interesting grown-up you have ever met: If you choose to write about this subject then discuss who they are, are they a family member or someone else? Have you met this person more than once? If you have only met this person once then where and how did you meet them? Why are they the strangest or most interesting grown-up that you have met?

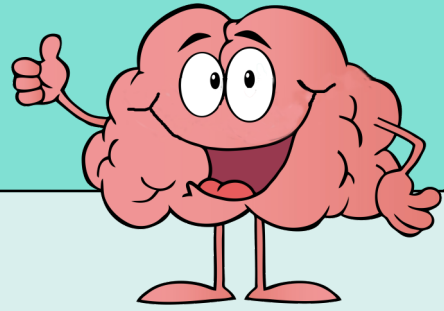
A grown-up you would like to meet: If you choose to write about this subject then discuss who the person is, are they a musician? A charity worker? Or maybe a sports person? What does this person do? Why would you like to meet them?

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AN INTERESTING THING



What is the most interesting thing you have learned during the past two weeks? It might be something you have read about or seen, or that you have been taught. Explain what it was and why you found it interesting.

Some ideas to think about...

What did you learn? Think about what you have been learning about in school, at home, things you have watched or read about and decide on one thing that you have found the most interesting.

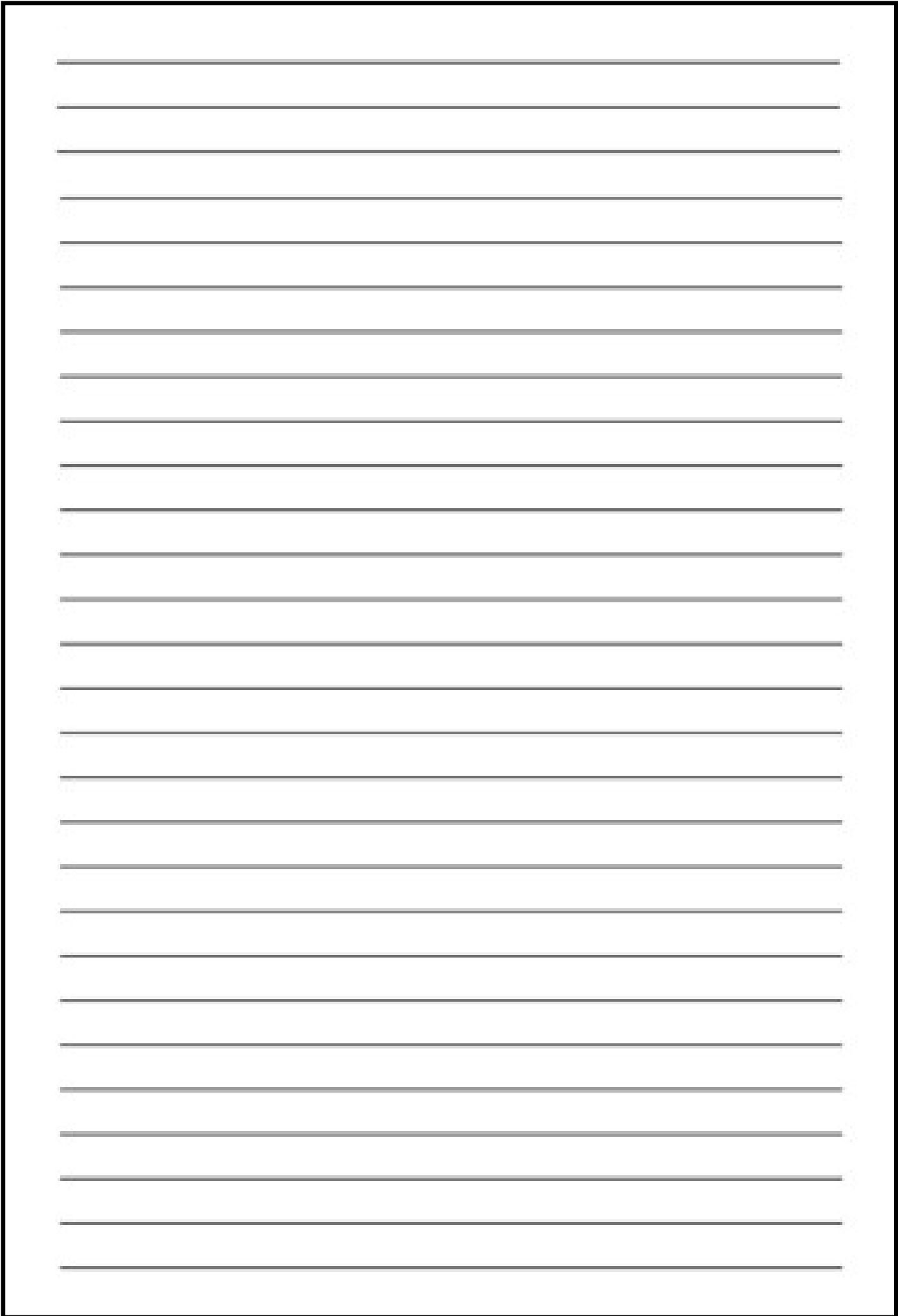
Where did you learn it? Did you learn about it in a lesson at school? Did a family member tell you? Did you see it when watching a documentary? Did you read about it in a book?

Why did you find it interesting? Give some reasons why this thing you have learnt was interesting.

What are you going to do next? Are you going to learn more about this thing? Are you going to tell other people or have you already told someone?

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