

Guidelines for Writing Projects

Your third short writing project will be written in class on day 23 — this is not a ‘take-home’ project but rather one you will write live in class, without reference to your notes. Here you will find the instructions and topic for the short paragraph assignment.

First, please remember the general guidelines about our assignments: you should write in your own words, using the material from the textbook and our class learning, and avoid computer translations and outside help. You should proofread your work for spelling errors, umlauts, and capitalized nouns, and you should consider creating alternate personas or fictitious details!

Please note that you are welcome to prepare by memorizing vocabulary, thinking about things you would like to say, and generally organizing your ideas, but during the in-class writing, you MAY NOT access any notes, digital devices, or other materials: you will be writing as if it were a testing environment. You will be given a copy of this instruction sheet and a blank piece of paper; you can write in pen or pencil as you wish.

This is a very different type of writing than a take-home assignment, and will be graded accordingly. Small mistakes are to be expected, and lack of specialized vocabulary is normal, so don't feel bad if you write something quite simple. Focus on the main ideas and pay attention to the vocabulary and grammar we have been learning in class, and you will do just fine!

Schreibprojekt für Kapitel 3: Mein Lieblingsverwandter oder meine Lieblingsverwandte

In class, you will write approximately 10-12 sentences in a cohesive paragraph, describing your favorite relative or family member (male or female): remember that you can invent details or create an entirely fictitious relative if you wish! You should answer most or all of the following questions:

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|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Wer ist Ihr Lieblingsverwandter / Ihre Lieblingsverwandte? | <i>(What is your favorite relative's name?)</i> |
| • Wie alt ist er/sie? Wann hat er/sie Geburtstag? | <i>(How old are they? When is their birthday?)</i> |
| • Ist er/sie verheiratet? Hat er/sie eine Familie? | <i>(Are they married? Do they have a family?)</i> |
| • Hat er/sie Haustiere? | <i>(Do they have pets?)</i> |
| • Wie sieht er/sie aus? | <i>(What do they look like?)</i> |
| • Welche Farbe haben seine/ihre Haare und Augen? | <i>(What color are their hair and eyes?)</i> |
| • Wie ist seine/ihre Persönlichkeit? | <i>(What is their personality like?)</i> |
| • Was macht er/sie (nicht) gern in der Freizeit? | <i>(What do they like (or not like) to do in their free time?)</i> |
| • Was kann er/sie gut machen? | <i>(What can they do well?)</i> |
| • Was soll er/sie anders machen? | <i>(What should they do differently?)</i> |
| • Hat er/sie einen Job? Was ist er/sie von Beruf? | <i>(Do they work? What profession do they have?)</i> |
| • Was muss er/sie bei der Arbeit machen? | <i>(What do they have to do at work?)</i> |
| • Was will er/sie machen? | <i>(What do they want to do?)</i> |
| • Wann und wie oft sehen Sie ihn/sie? | <i>(When and how often do you see them?)</i> |
| • Was machen Sie zusammen, und wann? | <i>(What do you two do together, and when?)</i> |

On the next page is an example of what you could write. Feel free to use similar formulations, but you must change the details to fit your own family member and create your own unique paragraph!

Example of possible paragraph:

Mein Lieblingsverwandter ist mein Bruder Scott. Er ist 31 Jahre alt, und er hat am zehnten Oktober Geburtstag. Er ist verheiratet und hat eine Frau und einen kleinen Sohn. Sie haben auch einen Hund und zwei Katzen. Scott ist groß und schlank. Er hat braune Haare und grüne Augen. Er ist sehr intelligent und lustig, und er ist auch kreativ. Er ist aber nicht sehr sportlich: er sitzt oft und liest gern, aber macht keinen Sport. Er soll mehr Sport machen, denn es ist gesund. Scott kann sehr gut kochen, aber er kann kein Musikinstrument spielen. Scott ist Lehrer von Beruf, er arbeitet für die Schule in San Marcos. Bei der Arbeit muss er Schülern helfen und Prüfungen korrigieren. Er will nach Europa reisen, aber er hat keine Zeit. Ich sehe ihn nicht sehr oft, vielleicht zweimal im Monat. Wir essen gern zusammen oder wir feiern mit Familien zusammen.

This writing project will be graded according to the following rubric:

Element	Criteria	Score
Content	Length is approximately 10-12 full sentences. All or most of the prompt questions are answered describing a relative in detail. Meaning is clear.	_____ out of 20
Vocabulary	Student uses the vocabulary and idioms as learned in class , appropriately for each question. Stock phrases are used correctly. Student adds some vocabulary elements to build personalized content. Computer translations are avoided!	_____ out of 20
Regular, Stem-Changing, and Modal Verbs	Subject-verb agreement is correct. Both regular and stem-changing verbs are conjugated correctly to match their subjects . Modal verbs are conjugated and formed correctly to match the subject. The action verb after the modal is placed as an infinitive at the end of the sentence .	_____ out of 20
Case, Gender, and Endings	Nouns have the correct gender and case . The accusative case is used for direct objects , and the nominative case for subjects and after the verb 'sein'. Proper possessive articles are used. Adjectives have proper endings : no endings when alone, but gender and case endings on adjectives that come before nouns.	_____ out of 20
Word Order	Student follows word-order rules in German, with the verb as the second element . Other elements follow the proper time - manner - place order.	_____ out of 10
Spelling	All content is correctly spelled . Nouns are capitalized . Umlauts are correctly placed.	_____ out of 10
Total	Total of All Criteria: (final score is percent out of 100 points total)	_____ out of 100