

Make some lists...

- + *Ten things that have happened this year*
- + *Ten things that have happened in your lifetime*
- + *Ten things that you care deeply about*
- + *Ten things that make you happy*
- + *Ten things that you wish you could change*
- + *Ten things that you covet. Gimme!*
- + *Ten things that you want to see in your lifetime*
- + *Ten things that you wish you knew more about*
- + *Ten things you've learnt about yourself*
- + *Ten people you admire*
- + *Ten people that changed the world*
- + *Ten times you felt something BIG*
- + *Ten amazing ideas*
- + *Ten compelling moments in history*
- + *Ten secrets revealed*

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diy stock images

A pile of interesting books
Feet in a pile of leaves
A cup of tea or coffee (maybe with a biscuit or two!)
A vignette featuring your phone, car keys etc
Indoor plants on a shelf/stool
A notebook open at a page with a pen, perhaps a cuppa
A shot looking up through leaves to a leafy sky
A lovely bunch of flowers
A jumble of collage materials
A row of cute shoes, lined up neatly
A photo of a pet
A pile of stationery or art materials
A slice of cake
A shot of the table at a cafe you are sipping/eating at
A fancy drink
A beautiful view
An arrangement of small, cute things
A shot of a nice collection (mugs, erasers, special pens, teapots!)
A city skyline or a country road
Some pretty, colourful lollies
A bundle of letters
Some cute things on a mantelpiece or shelf
Little hands or little feet
Hands holding something interesting: biscuits, acorns, shells
Balls of wool or spools of yarn
A pretty door or window
An arrangement of cute things pinned to a wall
A pretty cushion in a chair

other photo ideas

a simple guide to blog post structure...

Your premise

What thing are you going to write about? Use the first paragraph or two to introduce the reader to what you're going to write about and why. Readers... meet THE THING!

Your problem

This is the bit where you go a bit deeper, explaining why THE THING is important, what it IS about THE THING, how it's making you feel, how it's impacting on you. Will THE THING impact on your readers too? How might they feel?

Your solution?

How are you tackling THE THING? How are you dealing with it/solving the issues at hand? Are you embracing? Struggling? Are you stuck? Have you found a way through?

The recap

Connect up all the previous bits about THE THING - the premise, the problem, the solution - link them all together ready for...

The conclusion

Bundle it up. Put a bow on it. Write a few sentences about how this all ends and where you are now with THE THING. The aim is to pull everything together into one satisfying outcome.

Ask the reader

Finish your post with an engaging question/prompt, inviting the reader to further discuss THE THING from their point of view

a simple guide to 'voice' & 'story'

Write as if you were speaking to a dear friend.

Use your own expressions and nuances.

Try not to worry TOO much about perfect language conventions - write in a conversational way.

Personalise your writing - how did this feel FOR YOU?

Detail is important - add your own perspective and recount with honesty.

Write with clarity - what are you ACTUALLY trying to say? Don't beat around the bush too much. Get to the point.

If your writing unexpectedly heads off on another course - don't be afraid to edit the piece to reflect this new direction.

Don't write with too much sentimentality - you can be nostalgic without being self indulgent - especially if you focus on facts and detail. Keep it sincere and factual and you'll (hopefully) write sans self indulgence.

Sometimes it's okay to make up words!

Take the reader on a journey, make them feel as though they are sitting next to you, sharing the experience.

Extract the story - the beginning, the middle and the end. Don't write aimlessly, but rather pull the experience together into something tangible and relatable.