

### Reading Situation:

As you read this short article on time capsules, be thinking about what objects you would put in a time capsule if you created one. This is **NOT** an example of a report of information essay. It is a news paper article to help you think about the essay you will write afterward.

### **Time Capsules: Helping the Future Understand the Past**

From an article by Mark Sauer, Staff Writer

*San Diego Union-Tribune*

Time builds a wall between us and the past. We can't know, really, what things were like by reading about them in books alone. We need more clues to help us understand a period of time when we weren't alive to see it firsthand. To help preserve the past and to help future citizens understand how things were, people create time capsules. Time capsules are containers that we bury for people in some future time to open. The capsules contain objects that are chosen to represent life in the period of time when the capsules were buried.

Time capsules can be sealed for a few years or for a century. Some people bury time them in buildings; some people place them in special vaults. Usually the capsules contain special items such as documents, videos, photographs, letters, newspapers or other objects that can show people in the future a more complete view of the period of time when the capsule was sealed and buried.

Recently, middle school students in National City, California, created a time capsule for students in the year 2020 to open. The middle school administration asked students to submit ideas about what items would best help students in 2020 understand what it was like for kids in middle school in 2000. Suggestions ranged from newspaper articles to yearbooks to Game Boys. When the school finally sealed the capsule, there were over 20 items inside it.

### Writing Directions:

Your middle school is going to create a time capsule like the one you just read about. The principal and the ASB (or student council) are asking every student to submit ideas about what objects should be buried in the capsule. When the capsule is opened in 2020, what two or three objects would you like to see in it to reflect your time and your culture?

In a well-written Report of Information essay, explain to the principal and student council which two or three objects you would choose. Remember, the middle school students in 2020 might not know anything about these objects, so it will be up to you to help them understand what these objects are, how they are used, and how they reflect your culture.

Be sure you use:

- ✍ correct spelling and punctuation
- ✍ complete sentences
- ✍ clear, legible handwriting