Dear Diary,

 It’s been two whole weeks since I’ve seen John. I think of him wherever I go and I can’t focus on school because my mind is constantly on him. I don’t know how we are going to get through this. We have been having constant arguments and disagreements over pointless issues that aren’t very practical. We both want to make this relationship work but it’s so hard to not be sad. The time that we can’t see each other is awful and feel like forever, but when we are together it’s like nothing has changed. Today we argued about what I should get for dinner. Stupid stuff like that is just pulling us apart. I read articles about how to keep up a long distance relationship but they all make it seem so much easier than in really is. They tell me that fighting is normal and having strong emotions is what happens when you move away from someone you care about but they don’t make it any easier when we do fight and when I’m sad. I’m not really sure what to do anymore. I’ll keep writing in this journal to let out my feelings and vent about our problems but I don’t think it be enough. Well, I have to go do my homework now. I’ll be writing again soon.

**5 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP**

**By Caitlin Etheridge**

Are you in the midst of a long distance relationship? If you’re going through a rough patch, or just need some help revamping your bland cross-country relationship, look no further! This is a guide to helping you and your partner to spice up your LDR.

1. **Talk on the phone regularly!**

Having a routine of talking to each other is key to keeping the love alive. You both want to know “what’s up” with the other ones life, so catch up! Also, having a fairly normal phone-call schedule is good stability for an LDR.

1. **Control your texting.**

First of all, try to keep the topic lively instead of electronically dumping out all your emotions on your BF. Second, NEVER and I mean NEVER fight or argue over text. The way the words are being said are not clear and this can cause major low points in your days. Skype and FaceTime are your best choices if an argument is at hand.

1. **SURPRISE!**

Everyone loves a good surprise. When things start to drag along, try to surprise your partner with anything; a gift, letter, or even a visit! Sprinkling some unplanned visits in there is always a winner.

1. **Have some FUN.**

Since you two aren’t conjoined at the hip anymore, do something that you want. Take a yoga or cooking class to have some fun, and girls just wanna have fun, right?

1. **Go on a Skype date.**

Have the same dinner, watch the same movie, play an internet game, whatever works! This can feel silly but it’s a great way to change it up!

Writer’s Memo

I chose to first use a diary entry because it can have emotion and be personal to the writer. The magazine How-To genre caught my attention and I thought it would be a good way to counter the emotional diary entry with the simple and light-hearted tips. For the diary entry I chose to use personal issues and a sad voice because I wanted to make the piece feel more personal. I used wording that led to a sad, lonely feel of the piece. In the how-to, I made the advice concise and humorous to make the reader interested in my piece. The genre conventions I used in the diary piece were the “Dear Diary” and the one large paragraph. I also had personal information and wrote about things that one wouldn’t want to be made public. For the how-to I used a list and bolded text for the title of each piece of advice. I had to change the diction of each piece because the diary is a personal and emotion driven piece and the how-to is light-hearted and advice driven. The how-to also needed to be more concise in order to hold interest. The most challenging part of this assignment was writing the diary entry. I thought it would be easier to write because I can strongly relate to this topic, but it was difficult to write about a long-distance relationship. I think my how-to piece is humorous and entertaining and my diary entry is decent but I could improve it. Using words that aren’t overused and boring can be hard for me so that is another place I could improve.