Dear Diary,

It’s been two whole weeks since I’ve seen him. 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 stretches of time that we can’t see each other are painful and feel like an eternity, but when we are together it’s magical and wonderful. Today we argued about what I should get for dinner. Stupid stuff like that seems to create fissures in our relationship. 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 am 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 will be enough. Well, I have to go do my homework now. I’ll be writing again soon.

Writing a diary entry for this assignment is a real challenge, especially since you are writing about something truly personal. While diary entries are for one’s self, in this case, you do have me as another reader, which probably forces you to hold back a bit. That holding back, unfortunately, gives the entry a slightly strained and reserved feel that doesn’t quite work for a writing context where one is letting going and expressing their deepest/darkest personal secrets. Still: you do a good job of developing pathos and hinting at trouble. But I wonder what you left out that you wouldn’t were this a “real” diary entry?

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

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 a 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 joined at the hip anymore, do something that you want for fun. Take a yoga or cooking class to have some fun, because 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 lonely voice because I wanted to connect with the reader on a more personal level. 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. 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.