

DON'T REPEAT A WORD OF THIS! -

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Can you write a composition of 100 words or more without repeating a single word? Without using even an a or an an or a the more than once?

Sounds easy? This theme may turn out to be just a little more difficult than it sounds. Keep in mind that you must write on a particular topic, that your paragraph must make sense, and that it's not really cricket to use long lists. For example, "I like red, green, vermillion, pink, chartreuse, etc." wouldn't be a fair test of your skill.

Such a composition is possible, and students at Pompton Lakes High School in Pompton Lakes, N.J. have proved it. Their combined effort is given below and, as you can see, they chose the topic of the assignment itself. (You will want to select a different subject, of course.)

If individuals have trouble getting their quota of 100 words, follow the Pompton Lakes example and turn it into a group project. Five, ten or twenty heads can be better than one.

Remember, there are more than 600,000 words in the English language. All you have to do is use 100 different ones.

Let's go! The challenge is to write a composition without using any word more than once. Do you think that it can be done? If not, give one reason for doing this. While we are sitting here in English class at Pompton Lakes High School, Lakeside Avenue, New Jersey, all of us figure out something which makes sense. Mrs. Feldman helps her pupils because another teacher said they couldn't accomplish such tasks. Nobody has new ideas right now. Goal -- 100! How far did students get? Eighty-five done already; fifteen left. "Pretty soon none!" says Dennis O'Neill. Gary Putman and Debra Petsu agree. So there!