

Thomas Jefferson Paragraph

He was a brilliant writer, a man of many interests and accomplishments. Thomas Jefferson read and studied very hard every day in school. When he was at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, he sometimes studied for fifteen hours a day! He also made sure he had time to exercise and to play his violin.

When Jefferson was grown and had daughters to care for, he was very strict about their daily schedules. He made sure that they planned specific times to read, to study, to draw, and to practice their music. When he was away from home, he wrote them letters almost every day asking them to stick to their schedules, and to write back informing him of every new book they read, every drawing they created, and all the music they played! In a letter to his daughter Patsy, he laid out a schedule for her to follow while he was away. This is the schedule planned for her when she was eleven years old:

8-10 a.m.	practice music
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	dance one day, draw the next day
1-2 p.m.	draw on the day you dance and write a letter the next day
3-4 p.m.	read French
4-5 p.m.	practice music
5 p.m.-bedtime	read literature, write, etc.

As you can see, Jefferson expected a lot from himself and his children. Did Patsy have any free time according to this schedule? Think about the routines Jefferson and his daughters demanded of themselves. Do you have daily routines? What does your parent(s) expect of you?

Chart your daily schedule

1. Write a schedule of what you are expected to do in **one school day**. **Outline it** just as Jefferson did for Patsy. Include home and school hours, homework time, chores, and activities in which you participate.
2. **Write a short paragraph** comparing the schedule of a modern child to one of the 18th century when Jefferson's children lived. What are some similarities, differences? Do you have more free time than Jefferson's children had? Explain.
3. Share your schedule with a partner. Share the ideas you wrote about in your paragraph.
4. Read a few paragraphs aloud for the class.
5. Class discussion on the role of music in today's world. How does that compare to music in the late 1700's? Do both use music for entertainment and diversion?