- **Blog entries for trip to New Orleans**
  - Trip to city on Amtrak
    - airplane like
      - more flexibility
        - food (though expensive)
        - no seatbelts (weird)
        - delays - more lengthy
        - creature comforts
          - power outlets for use
          - cell phone usage allowed
            - surprising
            - necessary with delays
          - more legroom - helpful with knee problem
          - reclining seats
          - riding on glass effect - like Buick
    - similar to experience D.C. (Union Station)
      - commuter line
      - smaller station - more on return trip
    - friendliness (within reason)
      - man makes trip frequently, works 7 days a week
        - hazardous waste clean up (post Katrina)
      - man leaving Gadsden to take a job in NO; has to leave his wife behing
      - kid riding from Newnan to Slidell to go fishing
      - Mother riding home from visting family
    - using streetcar to get to hotel
      - always choose to use transit than taxi
        - explore without worry
        - views of St. Charles Street trolley
    - 1:09 p.m. - Departure time
    - **4:06 p.m. - notice of time left before trip continues**
      - reasons for delay
        - freight train
        - train making the return trip #20
      - experiencing need for double tracking along routes
      - delays and complaints would be reduced
      - not sure about the privatization of the service
    - Additional stops
      - 5:02 p.m. rode by Peavey Headquarters in Meridian MS
      - 5:05 p.m. pulled into station
      - 6:06 p.m. wild boar near tracks (quirky)
      - 6:11 p.m. - approx. arrival - Laurel
        - station listed on National Register
      - 6:17 p.m. - NOLA ETA: 10 p.m.
      - 6:45 p.m. - Henderson
        - new station - metal and glass
        - extension of current platform
        - renovation of station building
      - 7:25 p.m. Finished poem - Memories
        - create poetry page on blog
      - 7:49 p.m.Picayune, MS
        - station under construction
        - currently just parking
      - 8:15 p.m. - Slidell, LA
        - beautiful station, lights along roofline
        - visible damage from Katrina still apparent
      - 8:38 p.m. - finally realize that I'm crossing Lake Ponchatraine into metro NOLA
        - pitch black view from window
        - distant lights visible (barely)
      - 9:01 p.m. - saw first of many "We Are Open" signs on neighborhood business bldgs.
      - 9:04 p.m. - got update of the Western Conference Game 6 score (Dallas was losing)
    - train provides chances
      - more detail
      - allows to slow down
        - cemeteries seem to always be near tracks
    - recent upgrades noticeable
      - renovation of cars
      - extensive rail replacement
        - find out parts of railroad track online
    - Reasons for trip
      - **First trip on Amtrak**
      - **First trip to New Orleans**
        - National Trust Main Streets Conference