

Writing your Memoir

Do you know how unique you are? Each life experience is something that you can write about in a way no one else can. The descriptions you use, the characters you interact with, and the events you retell all teach others new things.

Choose 3-5 events that are meaningful to you and write your memoir for these events. Remember that memoirs do not have to be about “big events”; they can be about anything that taught you something new about the world or yourself. You can also choose to edit and include any writing from this unit to represent you.

Your memoir should have a common theme that connects the events together. Your writing must be descriptive and use metaphors/ similes and visual imagery to emphasize your theme.

A rough copy of your booklet needs to be finished by **November 28**. In class, we will revise and peer edit the work before you share the final printed copy on **December 6**.

Criteria D: Writing

Level	Descriptor	Indicators
0	Does not meet standards	You do not finish your memoir.
1-2	The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• has difficulty writing complex texts to express ideas and opinions in social and some academic situations. Shows little depth in understanding of the topic. Ideas are irrelevant and repetitive; opinions have little or no relevant support• has difficulty organizing information and ideas into a well-structured text; uses a limited range of cohesive devices; lapses in structure interfere with the development of the text• has difficulty using vocabulary, grammatical structures and conventions; frequent errors interfere with communication• writes with little sense of register, purpose or style.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Your memoir does not teach the reader a lesson. Events are not described or do not support the story.- Your memoir is not structured with an introduction, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution.- You use few sensory details to show the scene; actions, attitudes, and appearance of characters are not described; your spelling, sentence structures, and verb tenses frequently interfere with communication.- Your audience cannot picture your story.

3-4	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • writes complex texts to express some ideas and opinions in social and some academic situations. Shows some depth in understanding of the topic, though some of the message remains superficial; ideas are not always relevant and opinions are insufficiently supported • organizes some information and ideas effectively; text is structured appropriately and allows for the development of some ideas; uses a variety of cohesive devices • uses a range of vocabulary, complex grammatical structures and conventions; some errors and inappropriate word choice occasionally interfere with communication • writes with some sense of register, purpose and style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your memoir teaches the reader a lesson. Events are described and sometimes support the lesson. - Your memoir is somewhat structured with an introduction, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution. - You use some sensory details to show the scene; actions, attitudes, and appearance sometimes help us picture characters; your spelling, sentence structures, and verb tenses sometimes interfere with communication. - Your audience can somewhat picture your story and imagine it.
5-6	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • writes complex texts to express clearly a range of ideas and opinions in social and some academic situations. Shows satisfactory depth in understanding of the topic; ideas and opinions are relevant and generally supported • usually organizes information and ideas effectively into a well- structured text; makes good use of a variety of cohesive devices to develop ideas • makes good use of a range of vocabulary, complex grammatical structures and conventions; errors do not affect comprehensibility • writes effectively with a sense of register, purpose and style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your memoir clearly teaches the reader a meaningful lesson. Events are described and usually support the lesson. - Your memoir is structured with an introduction, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution. - You use sensory details to show the scene; actions, attitudes, and appearance usually help us picture characters; vivid words make your descriptions interesting; your spelling, sentence structures, and verb tenses are mostly accurate. - Your audience can picture your story and imagine it.
7-8	<p>The student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • writes complex texts effectively to express a wide range of ideas and opinions in social and some academic situations; shows good depth in understanding of the topic; ideas and opinions are relevant, focused and supported by examples and illustrations • organizes information and ideas into a clear and effective structure; uses a wide range of cohesive devices that enhance the development of ideas • makes excellent use of a range of vocabulary, complex grammatical structures and conventions to write effectively and accurately • writes effectively with a clear sense of register, purpose and style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your memoir clearly and effectively teaches the reader a meaningful lesson. Events are well described and support the lesson. - Your memoir is well-structured with an introduction, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution. - You use sensory details skillfully to show the scene; actions, attitudes, and appearance help us picture characters; specific and vivid words make your descriptions interesting and detailed; your spelling, sentence structures, and verb tenses are usually accurate. - Your audience can picture your story and imagine it easily.