

Name _____

Writing a Memoir

A memoir is a written account of events in your life. Throughout the year, you will be asked to reflect on memorable moments that occur and produce a writing piece based on these events.

Guidelines for writing:

- Pick a great topic! Remember, if you are not interested in what you are writing about, your writing won't be interesting. Your memoir may be funny, sad, scary, etc. Just make sure it was an event that was significant to you.
- Write your memoir in first person (I was walking down the street and saw a huge black bear.)
- Your memoir should be *three* paragraphs and have a clear beginning, middle, and end.

*The opening paragraph should have an interesting "hook" such as a hypothetical situation (imagine if...), dialogue, action, etc. It will also introduce the event you are writing about.

*Your body paragraph will describe in detail the event you introduced in your opening. Use plenty of imagery and figurative language. Remember...show, don't tell! It is far more interesting to say, "*The students drooped over their desks, fanning themselves with their notebooks,*" than "*The classroom was hot.*"

*Your closing paragraph will conclude the events and explain why this memory was significant to you. What did you take away from this experience?

- All of your memoirs should include examples of the compositional risks that are being studied in Language Arts. Use the schedule on the back of this sheet as a guide for which compositional risks should be included in each assignment.

September: simile (3)

October: metaphor (3)

November: hyperbole (3)

December: personification (3)

January: dialogue

February: alliteration and onomatopoeia (3 total)

March: direct quotation (1)

April: 3 examples of your choice (total)

May: 3 examples of your choice (total)

★ You are not limited to these requirements! Throw in tons of compositional risks every time your pencil hits the paper!