

Memoir

Writer's Workshop

ELA 30

What is it?

- French for 'memoire' meaning memory or reminiscence
- It is a factual account of somebody's life
- Focuses on one specific incident/experience
- Allows writer to make a connection to the reader
- Captivating
- Interesting
- Appealing
- Engaging

Is a Memoir the same as an Autobiography?

Autobiography

- Thoroughly researched
- Covers an entire lifespan
- Recap from beginning to end
- Typically written by famous people

Memoir

- One specific event is retold
- Focuses on one period and how that has changed the writer
- Can be written by anyone!

5 Things to Strive for:

- A sympathetic main character: make yourself funny, likeable, interesting, intriguing, etc.
- Vivid descriptions: use imagery to create a scene that is memorable for the reader.
- Emotional tension: sadness, joy, excitement. Pick an emotion that you want your reader to feel and work towards it!

5 things to Strive for Cont'd

- Drama/conflict: build up to the climax, show the reader what might be lost in the conflict.
- Satisfying ending: could be good or bad, but it needs to leave the reader with a sense of closure – what lesson you learned from this event.

Important info to remember:

- Write in 1st person, from your point of view.
- Tell the truth! This is a nonfiction narrative.
- Stick to your theme/event
- Come out of your memoir with a “lesson”

Your Writer's Workshop Assignment

- 1 – Go over Memoir together (today)
- 2 – Pick topic, begin drafting
- 3 – Drafting
- 4 – Finish Draft, Peer Edit
- 5 – Memoir DUE

40 marks

5 point rubric will be used

