

Name: _____

Date: _____

Personal Narrative

Writing Expectations	Below Standards	Nearing Standards	Meeting Standards	Exceeding Standards
Focus Stays on the topic by not writing about unrelated topics or unimportant details	1 Needs much work	2 Needs some work	3 Good	
Beginning and Ending Has a beginning that is catchy, interesting, or luring Has an ending that brings closure to the event	1 Needs much work	2 Needs some work	3 Good	4 Really Great
Description Uses descriptive language and sensory details (adjectives, adverbs, senses, similes, metaphors)	1 Needs much work	2 Needs some work	3 Good	4 Really Great
Paragraphs Information is organized into paragraphs	1 Needs much work	2 Needs some work	3 Good	4 Really Great
Mechanics Few grammar, punctuation, and capitalization mistakes Spelling mistakes are infrequent or on hard words	1 Needs much work	2 Needs some work	3 Good	4 Really Great
Neatness Written with neat penmanship	1 Needs much work	2 Needs some work	3 Good	4 Really Great
Amount An appropriate amount of writing for the selection	1 Needs much work	2 Needs some work	3 Good	

Memoir Rubric

Criteria	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four
Ideas and Content -Focus on one incident -Strong supporting details	It is hard to find my main idea. I do not focus on one incident. My paper is not interesting, it is simple. I have few or no details.	My main idea is there but not developed clearly. Some of my memoir is focused on one incident. My paper is not very interesting and very predictable. I often use details that are repeated and may not fit with main idea.	My main idea is clear Most of my memoir is focused on one incident. My paper is fairly interesting, I use some original ideas, but more predictable ideas. I use supporting details that usually fit with the main idea.	My main idea is very clear. I always stay on topic. My paper is interesting and original. My supporting details fit with the main idea.
Organization -Logical sequence -Transition words -Sentences organized into paragraphs Voice	I have no logical plan or sequence. I do not use transition words. I have not broken my ideas into paragraphs.	My plan and sequencing are weak. Sometimes you cannot understand my piece I try to use transition words, but sometimes they do not make sense I have tried a few paragraphs,	My ideas flow, sequencing is adequate, I use transitions, sometimes I choose the wrong ones. My paragraphing is usually correct.	I have a very strong plan, my ideas flow, sequencing is excellent My transitions are used well. My paragraphing is correct.
Effective Use of Language -Word Choice -Sentence Fluency	I do not CARE about this topic. My word choice is very limited, basic and sometimes I use words incorrectly. I use short, simple sentences	It is hard to tell I CARE about this topic. My word choice is accurate but limited I have used very few synonyms for tired words. You will find a lot of words repeated I usually follow one sentence pattern. There is little variety in my sentence structure, length, or style.	Sometimes it sounds like I CARE about this topic. My word choices are usually good. I am trying to experiment with language (new vocabulary, similes, metaphors). I have some variation in sentence structure, length & style.	You can tell I really CARE about this topic. My word choice is accurate, descriptive, imaginative. I use similes and metaphors (Figurative language) to make my descriptions more exciting. My sentences are varied in structure, length & style.
Conventions -Spelling -Punctuation -Capitals	I have many spelling errors. I have used little or no punctuation. It is almost impossible to understand my writing. A great deal of editing, correcting and revising is needed.	I have quite a few spelling errors. My punctuation is not always used correctly. I have not tried to use advanced punctuation or if I tried I was not usually successful. My many errors make it difficult to read my writing. I still need quite a bit of editing, correcting and revising.	I have very few spelling errors Capitals, end punctuation are used; apostrophes, commas, some quotation marks are used; effort to use advanced punctuation is made and is often successful. Some errors may interfere a little with reading the piece. Very little editing, revising or correcting necessary.	My spelling is excellent Capitals, end punctuation are used well; apostrophes, commas, quotation marks are used well; I am successful when using advanced punctuation (colons, semi-colon, hyphen, parenthesis, dash). My errors do not interfere with the reading of this piece. Little or no editing, revising or correcting necessary.



From Bill Zimmerman's new book in progress: *Your Life in Comics for Girls*.

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