Personal Memoir-Prompts

Write one chapter per week (expected length is 2 - 4 pages). Please use only one prompt per chapter, you, may also come up with an original one. Your Memoir must include 5 chapters min. Also, this is not a diary, so please write with no expectation of privacy. If you cannot think of any “real” life events to write about you may stretch the truth to make it more interesting.

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| **Options:** |
| **(Mandatory) Consider your choices for topics and synthesize a theme for your work. Support it with at least 3 examples from your planned Memoir.** |
| **Choose a metaphor to describe your family or major characters**.  Ex. My family is earth, air, fire, water because my mom is earth as she is always there to support me but can smoother me. |
| **Tell your creation myth.**  Ex. Story of your parents’ meeting. Story of your conception. Story of your birth. |
| **Describe your first memory.**  Use all of your senses to bring us there with you: smells, sights, sounds, tastes, textures. |
| **Introduce a conflict**  Ex conflict/fight/ or challenge that you have or are facing. |
| **Introduce a mentor**  Ex. A role model, coach, older friend who taught you a life lesson. |
| **Tell a coming of age or a coming to maturity moment.**  Ex. A moment where you were no longer a child and had to be brave or strong because you had to do something that gave you new insight or a new quality. |
| **Describe a departure.**  Ex. A death, a parting by you or someone close to you. |
| **Tell the story of a new beginning or of adventure.**  Ex. Traveling to a new place or just a big night out on the town. |
| **Your own idea ….** |

**Personal Memoir Writing Rubric** Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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|  | **Level 0 (0-49)** | **Level 1 (50-59)** | **Level 2 (60-69)** | **Level 3 (70-79)** | **Level 4 (80-100)** |
| **Inquiry** | No ability to synthesize experiences into a larger idea. | Theme is a topic or incomplete idea. Or, is poorly supported by your described experiences. | Theme is moralistic or cliché. Or, is somewhat supported by your described experiences. | Theme is not debatable or unique to your experiences. It is mostly supported by your described experiences. | Synthesizes details of self-knowledge, into an understanding of an accurate theme. |
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| **Communication**  Tense consistent, pronouns clear complete sentences, proper nouns capitalized | Grammar and spelling errors profoundly interfere with reading and comprehension. | Grammar and spelling are careless; several mistakes have been made that make comprehension more difficult. | Efforts have been made to correct Grammar/ spelling, includes 1-2 mistakes still. | Grammar Conventions covered in class implemented perfectly but there are still a couple of non- major grammar or spelling errors | No Grammar and Spelling errors. |
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| **Application of publication details**  Cover  Index  Font  Images  About the author  Clean and crisp | There is no unity in your publication.  Carless execution. | Limited effort was made in presentation. Few thoughtful para-textual additions have been made. | Some effort was made in presentation. Somewhat thoughtful and unified para-textual additions. | Many thoughtful and unified para-textual additions have been made to your work. | Publication is elegant. Book store ready. Minute details are thoughtful. Creative para-textual additions. |
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