

What Is Memoir?

- Memoirs allow us to revisit and reflect on things that happened in the past.
- Memoirs allow us to gain perspective on the things that happened in the past.
- Memoirs express who the writer is now and who he or she was at a particular time in his or her life.
- Memoirs can bring readers “into the life” of the writer.
- Memoirs are based on real-life events and experiences.
- Memoirs reveal the writer’s feelings about events and/or experiences.
- Memoirs are meaningful and often show what the writer learned from the event or experience.
- Memoirs are often focused on one event or one point in the writer’s life.
- Memoirs are about the writer’s experience of an event rather than just the event itself.

Is This “The One”?

Memoir Considerations	My Response
Is my idea meaningful and memorable?	_____ _____ _____
Will this story follow a narrative structure: introduction, events that unfold naturally, reflective conclusion?	_____ _____ _____
Will I be able to include personal reflections that will show why this memory is significant?	_____ _____ _____
Is my idea focused, or is it too broad?	_____ _____ _____
Will I be able to include relevant details and sensory language in my piece if I select this idea?	_____ _____ _____
Do I have a strong connection to this idea, and can I develop it further?	_____ _____ _____
Will my story evoke emotions and connect to readers?	_____ _____ _____

The memoir idea I selected is _____
because _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Choosing Your Form or Genre of Writing

The writing idea I have chosen for my memoir is _____

Form or Genre	Why and how this would work for my memoir
Picture Book	
Short Story or Collection of Short Stories	
Graphic Novel	
Photo Essay	

The form I have chosen is: _____
