

IMAGINATIVE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Using your creative mind, your strongest writing skills, and all of your prewriting tools ("Your Personal Past" worksheet, the "20 Years from Now" cluster, your "Quick Listing," the timeline you created, and any other graphic organizers or notes related to this assignment), write an autobiography which covers your life from birth to approximately 20 years from now.

- Include truthful information from your past and present, as well as imagined details from your future.
- Aim for about one-third of your writing being about your past and present life (the real stuff) and about two-thirds of your writing being about your future (the imagined stuff). This is just a suggestion and will vary from person to person. However, you should not neglect your past and write only about your future, nor should you concentrate so much on your past that you run out of time, space, or steam when it comes to describing your future.
- You need not include information prior to your birth unless it is relevant to something about your past, present, or future life.
- Your finished writing should be at least 7 paragraphs (introduction, 5 body paragraphs, conclusion); this is the bare minimum! Please select your content carefully so you do not exceed more than 4 double-spaced type-written pages.
- Your writing should be thoughtful, descriptive, and genuinely reflect who you are, including who you've been and who you'll be!

DEADLINES

Work will be done in class, in the computer lab, and at home.

Half of Body Paragraphs

DUE: _____

Other Half of Body Paragraphs

DUE: _____

Introduction

DUE: _____

Conclusion

DUE: _____

Full Rough Draft

DUE: _____

Review by Peer (in class)

DUE: _____

Review by Adult (out of class)

DUE: _____

Final Draft (Correct Formatting Required)

DUE: _____

Time-Line (Ready to Post)

DUE: _____

While you are writing and especially while you are revising, keep in mind the six writing traits from our grading rubric:

Ideas & Content: Are your ideas fully developed and clearly presented? Does your writing tell a story? Do you include details that help create a picture of your real experiences or make your imagined experiences seem real?

Organization: Does your organization make sense? Have you followed a specific organizational strategy such as moving through the information chronologically or thematically? Does the order of your writing and your paragraphs move your reader through the text?

Sentence Fluency: Are the structures of your sentences varied? Do you mix short and long sentences to enhance the rhythm of your writing? Do your sentences flow smoothly? When you read it aloud does it sound as good as when you read it to yourself?

Conventions: Have you tended to the mechanical errors that trip up readers (remember CUPS: capitalization, word usage, punctuation, and spelling)? Have you avoided sentence fragments and run-ons? Do your paragraph breaks make sense? Have you checked and double-checked your writing using your very best proofreading skills? When you are using the computer, have you been careful not to rely exclusively on the spell-check feature?

Word Choice: Are you careful about varying your word choice so as to avoid repetition? Have you made a point of not being too informal in your writing (words or phrases like "Well," "You know," "Ginormous," or "It rocks" are fine for casual conversation, but not for school assignments)? Have you stretched your vocabulary a bit by choosing interesting words, but ones that still fit who you are and how you write?

Voice: Does your writing have energy? Does everything you write have a purpose? Does it say, "Read me! I have focus and character. I'm not just a list of experiences or a rambling account; I am filled with important stories told with engaging details"? Does it scream "This is me!"?