**Autobiography Project**

The purpose of this project is to explore the various elements of your memories and life that make up who you are as an individual. You get the chance to reflect on your memories and recognize the forces in your life that made you the person you are today. You will be required to complete the sections of this piece using your own personal knowledge and that of your family/friends. Each section must be a **minimum** of ½ page in length. Be thorough and detailed in your writings to provide a complete visual of who you are.

You will be given this project in parts with specific due dates given. The dates will be determined at the beginning of each piece. As time permits, you will be revising and self/peer editing the parts you have collected to create a final product. This writing process is meant to help you organize your thoughts, provide direction, and break down the project into manageable steps in order to increase your writing ability.

As you will see in the grading rubric, creativity is also a part of the marking scheme. Creativity can be described as color, drawings, visuals, use of font, placement of items, etc. Illustrations/visuals must be used to support your writing.

Recommendations for Writing Your Autobiography

\*Any questions or information you feel is too personal or uncomfortable may be left out.

\*Computers may be used. If completing using a computer use Times New Roman size 12 font.

\*You may wish to include pictures, awards, certificates, etc. If these elements are too valuable than please just use a drawing of it, photocopy, or take a picture using your device and insert it in if using a computer based program.

\*Number the pages as you work on them in order to stay organized.

\*Include dates and places as they are part of your family history.

\*Put in details. Use descriptive language so that the reader will get a clear visualization of your story. Descriptive check lists have been provided in this handout for you to use in your writing.

\*Write how you felt when you describe an event.

\*Write like you would normal talk/speak. YOU are telling the story.

**Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Organization** | Information is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs and subheadings. | Information is organized with well-constructed paragraphs. | Information is organized, but paragraphs are not well-constructed. | The information appears to be disorganized. |
| **Quality of Information** | Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples. | Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides  1 -2 supporting details and/or examples. | Information clearly relates to the main topic. No detail and/or examples are given. | Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic. |
| **Mechanics** | No grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. | Almost no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. | A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. | Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. |
| **Creativity** | Unique arrangement of material. Use of text and pictures makes project fun to read (borders, clip art, etc.) | Arrangement of material includes a mixture of text and projects | Routine format of writing and pictures | Little effort made to make project different |
| **Illustrations/Visuals** | Illustrations/visuals used to support text throughout project. | Illustrations/visuals used throughout project. | Illustrations/visuals occasionally in project. | Few/no illustrations/visuals. |
| **Neatness** | Arrangement of pictures and text make project easy and interesting to read. | Pictures and text easy to read. | Text has gaps in places, some pages are messy and difficult to read. | Little effort put into making project neat. |
| **All chapters included** | All 7 chapters and required elements included as well as extra information and pictures. | All 7 chapters and required elements included. | Most chapters and elements included. | Some elements and chapters included. |
| **On time** | Turned in BEFORE deadline – by extra credit due date. | Turned in on time. | Turned in 1 day late. | Turned in 2 days after date or later. |
| **Overall project** | Meets all criteria in 4 category | Meets all criteria in 3 category | Meets all criteria in 2 category | Meets all criteria in 1 category |

**Comments:**

**Grade:**

**Title Page**

The title page must include your name, teacher name, date, course (Writing 2203), a title, and a visual. You may wish to leave this element for last.

**Table of Contents**

Once the project is completed, you must create a table of contents. Examples of this format can be found online or in textbooks.

**Section One: The Basics**

1. Birth facts: time, where, date, name of hospital, height, weight, full name. Can include a baby picture and/or copy of birth announcement.
2. Were you named after anyone? Who?
3. Why did your parents name you what they did?
4. a. What does your name mean?
5. What did you discover about the history of your name?
6. Do you have a nickname? How did you get it?

\*You may wish to include any interesting facts about your birth. For example, the weather that day, share your birthday with someone you now, historical event, etc.

**Section Two: Family**

1. Describe each member of your family – looks, personality, occupation, age.
2. Where do you fit in – oldest, middle, youngest, only?
3. Any famous relatives?
4. What is your family’s ethnic background? Do you observe any traditions from other countries?
5. Do you have any pets? If so, what kind, name, how long you’ve had them.
6. Describe the house or apartment that you live in now.
7. Have you ever moved to a new city, town, or community? Where and how long ago?
8. Are there any places that are special to you, such as a relative’s home?
9. Include anything else that you find interesting about your family and home.
10. Include at least two visuals in this section representing the elements you provided.

**Section Three: Early Life (ages 1-6)**

This is a difficult section since most of you will not remember many things about this time of your life. What you write here requires the help of parents, older brothers and sisters (if you have any), or other relatives. Many families have stories about the things children did when they were young. Choose one of the following options to complete this section.

1. Using the information you gained from relatives about the early years, write half a page about an event from this time in your life. Include as much detail and descriptions as possible.
2. Create a timeline of five events from the time of your first birthday to the age of six. You must incorporate both text and a small visual on the timeline for each event.

**Section Four**: **Later Life (ages 7 to present)**

Describe two events that you remember that happened to you during your life from this time period. It could be a positive or negative event. Make sure to include as much sensory details as possible including the people, places, age, etc. Each event must be half a page in length.

Alternates:

1. Depict the best and worst events in a comic strip format.
2. Depict one of the events in a comic strip format and the other in a paragraph.

**Section Five**: **Description of you as you are now**

1. What do you look like? (Describe in detail.)
2. What is your personality? (Shy, outgoing, competitive, sensitive, etc.)
3. What are your faults?
4. What are your interests, hobbies, habits (good and bad)?
5. Do you belong to any clubs or organizations?
6. Have you won any awards?
7. How have you changed in the last year?
8. Include a hand drawn self-portrait or recent picture of yourself.

**Section Six: Likes and Dislikes**

1. What are some of your favorites – color, food, television show, book that you’ve read, season, etc.?
2. Who do you admire, famous and non-famous people?
3. What is your idea of having a good time?
4. What do you find boring?
5. What do you dislike?
6. Include any other likes and dislikes you can think of.
7. What are your pet peeves? (Little things that bother you.)
8. What is something you get angry about?

**Section Seven: Future Plans**

Discuss your hopes for the future – education, career, accomplishments, possessions you hope to have, family plans, where you hope to live, what you would like to be doing in 10 years, travel plans, etc. Include anything else you are planning for the future – dreams, wishes, ambitions . . .