

First and Last Name
ENG 050
Formal Assignment #1: Memoir, Draft # _
Due Date: 10.8.19

Formal Assignment #1: Memoir

Prompt: Please write a memoir about a moment from your past that evoked a powerful emotion in you. The story must be about you and must emerge from a real experience in your life. “You can’t make this stuff up!” (Lee Gutkind).

Rhetorical Mode: Narration. Consider additional modes: description, exposition, argumentation.

Genre: Creative Nonfiction. “True stories well told.” (Lee Gutkind).

Sub-Genre: Memoir.

Rhetorical Purpose: Entertain. Consider secondary and tertiary purposes: Persuade and Inform.

Audience: Your primary audience is your instructor and classmates. Your secondary audience is people who visit your website.

Style: Please blend both descriptive (showing) and expository (telling) writing—and use the diction and tone that are most appropriate for your purpose and audience.

Focus: Please use a narrative scene to focus on one particular moment of emotion from your life.

Writers’ Choices: Please consider the context, text, and subtext of your story:

- *Context:* Your story should include a setting and situated information that frames the plot (similar to kairos). To create context, your story should provide the 5 Ws: Who, What, When, Where, and Why.
- *Text:* I ask that your story opens with a showing scene that includes description and action. Then you can add sections of telling to provide context and reflection. Use symbols and/or motifs. Remember Lee Gutkind points out that showing scenes are the building blocks of a creative nonfiction narrative.
- *Subtext:* Your story is not much of a story if it does not include subtext (“what’s left unsaid and under the surface of the text”). To create subtext, please consider **themes** (joy, fear, anger) and **conflict** (character v character | v self | v society | v nature, etc.). Your story must have conflict.

Notes:

Process: To begin, review your informal assignments for material. Next, *Think On Paper* about the issues surrounding the life event: freewrite, list, cluster, discuss, and read other creative nonfiction stories to generate ideas. Then, please consider answering one of the following questions in your own creative nonfiction narrative (if you have another idea for a question and topic, please email me first):

- What high-stake choices (made by you or someone else) evoke positive or negative feelings for you?
- What physical objects evoke emotion in you?
- With whom do you share strong emotional connections?
- What are the big wins and losses in your life?
- What physical places evoke emotion in you?
- What moments/places/people evoke nostalgia in you?
- What life moment might you revise or relive, if you could?

Product: This narrative should be around 500 words and formatted as follows: one-inch margins, 12-point font, and double-spaced. Please include an original title centered at the top of the essay. This doesn't count as an original title: *Memoir*. We will use these criteria to evaluate how your narrative:

- _____ uses an opening scene to jump right into the action;
- _____ uses a scene (description + action + theme) to build the narrative;
- _____ focuses on a clear action frame (takes place over a short period of time);
- _____ illustrates a clear structure (showing and telling sections are well-integrated and cohesive);
- _____ includes reflective “telling” moments that provide context and heart/mind insights;
- _____ incorporates symbolic details to illustrate an over-arching theme of emotion;
- _____ explores at least one literary conflict;
- _____ uses language that is appropriate and compelling for your audience (tone, style, diction);
- _____ shows signs of careful proofreading, with minimal grammatical or spelling errors;
- _____ assignment sheet and previous drafts stapled behind most recent draft (portfolio packet).