

The House on Mango Street Personal Narrative Vignette Assignment

What: Write a collection of 3 vignettes about your personal experience in the style of Sandra Cisneros' *House on Mango Street*

How (Success Criteria):

In this paper you will:

- observe and analyze Sandra Cisneros' writing style and techniques
- reflect on your own experience and select people, moments, and events that have shaped your identity
- choose a theme from your experiences that are meaningful to you
- draft and revise vignettes modeled on those in *The House on Mango Street*

When (Performance Tasks):

- Brainstorm due Tuesday, January 28th
- Work Time: Friday, January 31st
- Rough draft due Tuesday, February 4th
- Work on Vignettes/Peer Edit – Feb. 5th/6th
- Final Draft due Tuesday, Feb. 11th (end of day)

****Note:** due to this being an extended assignment and Mrs. Soper offering plenty of time to help and revise, there will be no "retest" option. The grade is final**

BRAINSTORM

· Create a Brainstorm of key things/experiences in your life in each of the 5 sections:

Aim for 3–5 in each of the 5 categories

- o Places (The House on Mango Street, Those Who Don't)
- o People (Boys and Girls, Cathy, Meme Ortiz, Marin, Alicia)
- o Characteristics (Hairs, My Name, Hips)
- o Experiences (Laughter, A Rice Sandwich, The First Job)
- o Memories (Our Good Day, Louie, Chancas)

A vignette captures impressions, images, and moments in time...

Sample 1 My Passions

Baseball and music are my two real passions in life. Baseball, I've been playing for 5 years and it has begun to play a big role in everything I do. It has taught me discipline, patience and teamwork. I also really enjoy playing. Piano has shaped my life. 11 years after my first lesson I have learned a vast majority of types of music and I have written. There is rarely a day where I am not seated at the piano either practicing or just messing around. Music has been very influential and I want to be doing it for the rest of my life.

Sample 2

Eleven Years After My First Lesson

Plink plink. My fingers like tiny hammers on the dusty keys. Suddenly a melody explodes from my hands and I'm in another place. For Elise by Beethoven: the sad little tune in A minor, a girl looking down at the water she's afraid to dive into....

Which one is better? Why?

What a Vignette Is:

- A snapshot into a part of life
- A small piece of writing that tells part of a larger story/theme
- Written using literary devices and able to take literary licenses (ex: sentence fragments)
- A personal reflection on something
- Something that is SHOWN not TOLD

What a Vignette is NOT:

- An essay
- Random thoughts...there should be some sort of purpose behind all of this
- A 5 paragraph essay with a thesis statement

As you begin to write, look at the novel for ideas of how to structure your writing. You may brainstorm using this sheet or you may use another paper.

W 5-1 I can strengthen my writing by planning, revising and trying new approaches.

Places important to me:

People important to me (and what I'd write about):

Characteristics about me:

Experiences (things that have been recent):

Memories (experiences from when I was younger)