

Name: _____ Period: _____

English 1, School Year 2025-26

100 WORD MEMOIR

For this assignment, you will write a 100 word **memoir** based on **a place, an event, or an object** of personal significance.

What makes a memoir a memoir?

A **memoir** uses fictional techniques to draw readers into an honest account of a true story. A turning point or core memory in an author's life might make a great **subject** for a **memoir**.

What are the characteristics of a memoir?

A memoir is written in the **first person**, from the author's point of view (the voice is first person singular: **I**, not we, one, or you). The memoirist is the main character whom the reader accompanies throughout the story, gaining insights into the writer's thoughts and feelings, reactions and reflections.

PURPOSE

This assignment is an opportunity to practice and showcase your skills in using **literary elements, literary devices (figurative language), and sensory details** when storytelling.

ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ Must be approximately **100 words** (no more than 150) and have a **creative title**
- ☐ Must use at least **3** different literary devices (2 devices are mandatory: **simile/metaphor(1)** and **personification(1)**. The last device is your choice)
 - ☐ E.g.: irony, alliteration, allusion, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, imagery, repetition, symbol, etc.
- ☐ Must use **sensory details** to describe the event as if you are actually there (**show, don't tell**)
- ☐ Must have proper MLA formatting: double spaced, 12-pt font, Times New Roman, document header, 1" margins
- ☐ Include Word Count at the end of your piece

GUIDELINES

- Your opening lines should *clearly* and *creatively* convey the topic of your memoir
- Voice/tone/mood should convey the significance of the event/object/place
- Focus on using specific, concrete details to capture **feelings and moments**, rather than simply reporting "what happened"
- Your memoir should be written in: **present tense**.
- Events and actions should be left up to interpretation. Don't tell the reader everything; don't tell them how they should feel.
- **Avoid all clichés!**

FINAL DRAFT DUE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

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100 Word Memoir Rubric

	Exceeding 4-5	Meeting 3-4	Working On 1-2
Voice / Tone	☐ Writer's thoughts, feelings, and personality are <i>thoroughly and clearly</i> expressed ☐ Writing evokes <i>strong</i> emotions in the reader	☐ Writer's thoughts, feelings, and personality are expressed ☐ Writing evokes <i>some</i> emotion in reader	☐ Writer's thoughts, feelings, and personality are <i>not</i> evident ☐ Writing evokes <i>minimal</i> emotion in the reader
Structure & Word Choice	☐ Precise word choice "paints" a <i>complete and vivid</i> picture in the reader's mind	☐ Adequate word choice "paints" a picture in the reader's mind	☐ Ordinary word choice does not necessarily "paint" a clear and complete picture in the reader's mind
Literary Elements	☐ Characters, action, and conflict are clearly communicated and consistent within the story ☐ Literary devices <i>successfully</i> used without a sense of being forced (3+ total) ☐ Dialogue between characters is realistic and believable	☐ Characters, action, and conflict are communicated but not necessarily consistent within the story ☐ Literary devices attempted, but seem a bit forced (2-3 total) ☐ Dialogue is somewhat realistic	☐ Characters, action, and conflict are communicated, but confusing ☐ Little to no stylistic devices attempted (0 or 1 total) ☐ Little to no dialogue included
Organization / Transitions	☐ <i>Memorable</i> introduction and conclusion are linked ☐ Sequencing of details is <i>clear and logical</i> ☐ Transitions <i>effectively</i> tie the events in the memoir together	☐ <i>Effective</i> introduction and conclusion are clearly linked ☐ Sequencing of details is somewhat <i>logical</i> ☐ Transitions tie the events in the memoir together	☐ Introduction and conclusion attempted, but not necessarily linked ☐ Sequencing of details is <i>not clear</i> ☐ Little to no transitions evident
MLA formatting, Conventions, & Grammar	☐ <i>Little to no</i> errors in conventions are apparent ☐ Proper MLA formatting is demonstrated all around (double spaced, 12 pt font, Times New Roman, document header, 1" margins)	☐ <i>Some</i> errors in conventions are apparent, but errors do not impair the readability of the piece ☐ <i>Most</i> of the MLA formatting is done correctly, but there are a few errors	☐ <i>Numerous</i> errors in conventions that impair the readability of the piece ☐ No MLA formatting is visible on the document

_____/25 points

Comments: