

AICE General Paper (Grades 9-10)  
Memoir Summer Assignment

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Due Date: Wednesday, August 11, 2021

**Part 1: Write the Essay**

1. Choose a memoir that you are interested in and read it thoroughly. Here are a couple of possible choices, but feel free to choose something else if you'd prefer.

- *Little Fish*
- *Unlikely Warrior*
- *Hole in My Life*
- *Autobiography of a Face*

**Please make sure that the memoir that you choose has NOT been adapted to a film and do NOT choose The Diary of Anne Frank.**

2. Choose one of the essay prompts below to write a 5-paragraph expository essay:

*Describe and analyze the protagonist's character development throughout the memoir and how it affected his/her identity. Give specific examples of this transformation.*

*What do you think motivated the author to share his or her life story? How did you respond to the author's "voice"?*

*Discuss the book's structure and the author's use of language and writing style. How does the author draw the reader in and keep the reader engaged? Does the author convey his or her story with comedy, self-pity, or something else?*

*The decisions people make often have a significant impact on their lives. Think of an important decision that the protagonist in your book made. Discuss at least THREE effects of this decision and analyze how this decision positively or negatively impacted his/her life.*

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3. You should make sure to:

- use 12-point font
- use Times New Roman
- double-space

4. In the introduction, give a hook (suggestion: try finding a good quote that may apply to one of the themes in the memoir you read) as your first sentence. Also, be sure to state the name of the author and title of the memoir while providing a very brief (2-3 sentences) summary of the text.

5. You must include at least one quotation from the memoir for each body paragraph and cite your source (the memoir) by putting the author's last name and the page number where you found the quote in parentheses after each quote (using MLA formatting). If you pull information from another source, please cite that source (using MLA formatting) as well.

6. In your conclusion, mention what is the impact/implications that the memoir has had on you/society.
7. You must follow the conventions of standard English such as correct spelling, grammar, punctuation.
8. Include a Works Cited page in MLA format which lists the sources that you have used. One source should be the memoir that you read. If you unsure how to format using MLA, please visit:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)  
 First click “MLA Guide” on the left, and then click “MLA Format and Style Guide.”

## **Part 2: Write a chapter of your own personal memoir**

**Definition of a Memoir-** Writers look for the past and make sense of it. Writers figure out who they are, who they have become, and what it means to them and to the lives of others. A memoir differs from an autobiography in that it focuses on one aspect of or period of time in a subject’s life.

### **Your Memoir Must:**

- ♣ Be 2-3 pages in length
- ♣ Be typed, double-spaced, with size 12 Times New Roman font, 1” margins all around
- ♣ Have a creative, catchy, original title
- ♣ Have an exciting beginning that draws the reader in.
- ♣ Start in an interesting place and hook your reader in the first sentence. You can use action, a vivid description, or dialogue, for instance.
- ♣ Be written in first person (“I”)
- ♣ Explain the memory in detail and be told in logical order
- ♣ Use vivid, detailed description full of imagery
- ♣ Include some dialogue

### **Possible Topics-**

#### **Can you:**

- *remember a time when you got in trouble for something you had already been told not to do?*
- *remember a trip that you would (or would not) not want to have to take again?*
- *remember a birthday or a holiday you would like (or not like) to live over again?*
- *remember a time when you got lost or separated from your family or friends?*
- *remember a time when your first impression turned out to be completely wrong?*
- *remember a problem with a haircut? an article of clothing?*
- *remember a time when you almost won, but not quite?*
- *remember a time when you were tricked or lied to?*
- *remember your most embarrassing moment?*

#### **Take us with you:**

- *when you had to move from one home to another.*
- *when you walk around the neighborhood where you lived as a child.*
- *when you go to summer camp.*

By the end of your memoir, the message (or “SO WHAT?”) should be clear; the reader should know why you wrote this and what he/she is supposed to learn from it.

Of course, you will not remember every detail or conversation exactly as it happened. As a memoirist, you can recreate the scene as best as you can remember, filling in the smaller details. Try to capture the feeling of that moment. Don’t worry about having everything historically correct. But most importantly, remember this rule about writing your memoir:  
**HAVE FUN!**

- *to your childhood hiding place or special thinking place.*