



Creative MEMOIR PROJECT

OBJECTIVES:

- WRITE A PERSONAL NARRATIVE.
- MAKE MEANINGFUL CHOICES IN LITERARY AND STYLE DEVICES.
- CONVEY A THEME ABOUT IDENTITY INDIRECTLY.



REQUIREMENTS

- KEEP IT REAL: narrative must be a TRUE story about your life/identity development.
- CHOOSE YOUR STYLE – intentionally use figurative language, organization, syntax, sensory imagery, symbolism, motif, allusion, or any other stylistic devices and graphic choices.
- CONVEY A THEME: convey an overarching theme about your identity (not stated directly).

GENRE OPTIONS

COMING-OF-AGE VIGNETTES

- min 5 episodes, 250-500 words each
- Creative page design – font, layout, borders, images
- Points to consider: Sensory imagery and figurative language, syntax, vignette titles, strong characterization, anecdotes, theme.

IDENTITY SHORT STORY

- 1000-word minimum
- Creative title page design/intentional layout
- Points to consider: Characterization, narrator's point of view, dialogue, organization, selection of detail, theme.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- 5 page minimum
- Points to Consider: Graphic Layout & Proportion, captions, word/thought bubbles, images, color choice, selection of detail, characterization, organization, theme.

RATIONALE

Include at the end of the final project.

What style devices were used to convey the theme of your narrative?

- Name 3 specific "authorial choices" you made.
- Why did you choose those devices? (Be specific – quote yourself!).
- Elaborate on how those choices affect the overall purpose/theme of your work.
- 350 words min.

Final Project Due Date: To be submitted
by Wednesday, March 9th

SAMPLE TOPICS

Brainstorming Story Ideas:

Family Background Story - What is your heritage? How does your ethnicity fit into your life? How did your parents meet? Who are important members of your family, and how have they contributed to your own growth & development? Share their story!

Identity Story - What challenges have you experienced with your own identity and perspective? What major events in your life have shaped your identity, perspective, or beliefs? How do your ideas about identity differ from the most important people in your life?

Place/Setting Story - How did you come to your house, your town? Describe your “home.” How has your “neighborhood” shaped you? And the people in it? Tell a story about it!

Your Name - How did you get your name? Why do you like or dislike it? Why is it significant to who you are? Explain the meaning. Consider what you might rename yourself if you could.

Icon Story - Think of images/items from your past (old car, ticket stub, baby toy/blanket, gift, piece of jewelry, sports equipment, etc.). Draw connections between the item and the feeling you have associated with it. Why is this item important to you?

Memorable Friend - Focus on characteristics of one of your friends or neighbors, either from your past or present. Use an anecdote or dialogue to show their characteristics!

Future Goals Story - What are your dreams and hopes for your future? Where do you see yourself in 5, 10, 20 years? Share your plans to make this dream a reality!

GRADE RUBRIC

- ___/4 MINIMUM WORK COMPLETED (DISPLAYS EFFORT OVER TIME ALLOTTED)
- ___/4 CHARACTERIZATION & IDENTITY THEME DEVELOPMENT
- ___/4 STYLE OF LANGUAGE (INTENTIONAL CHOICES CLEAR IN WRITING)
- ___/4 GRAPHIC ADDITIONS/LAYOUT & PRESENTATION
- ___/4 RATIONALE - FOCUSED ANALYSIS OF STYLE CHOICES AND EFFECT
- ___/20 POINTS TOTAL