

## Ashland English 102 Essay #1

### Personal Memoir

As you enter your second semester of college, consider the place of education and literacy in your life. You have been on an educational journey for 12½ years or so, and will (I hope) continue for a good many years to come.

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 puts the events of a life in perspective for the writer and for those who read it. It is a way to explain to others the events of our lives—our choices, perspectives, decisions, and responses. ... Memoirs call for a good story, for problems, and themes, for humor, and detail. The writer edits his or her life for the reader.<sup>1</sup>

### Your Writing Task

For this memoir, choose a memory (good or bad) that is somehow related to your educational journey. This memory must have affected you, your life, or your personality. The memory may also have changed the way you viewed something or someone. Overall, this memory must have meaning in your life.

### Mechanical Details

**Length:** Minimum 970 words not counting title, your name, etc. That's about a three-page paper. There is no maximum, but try to keep it under 1450. Papers significantly under the minimum (90% or less) will not receive the best possible grade.

**Format:** Standard MLA format. (12-point Times Roman type, double-spaced, 1" margin all around, MLA header.)

### ***Submitting the paper:***

- This paper will be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Instructions are available on the Blackboard website for this course.

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<sup>1</sup> Erpelo, Liza. "The Memoir Assignment." *Skyline College*, San Mateo Community College, Sept. 2010, [accounts.smccd.edu/erpelol/courses/fall10/read836aa/worksheets/thememoirassignment.pdf](https://accounts.smccd.edu/erpelol/courses/fall10/read836aa/worksheets/thememoirassignment.pdf). Accessed 3 Jan. 2020.

## Due Dates

1. **Essay coherence exercise:** Friday, January 31, 2020
2. **Peer editing:** Monday, February 3, 2020.
3. **Final copy:** Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

This essay is worth 75 points.

### ***Note about peer editing:***

Peer editing counts as a quiz. You get credit if you show up in person with two printed copies of your rough draft (at least 90% of the assigned length). Do not expect us to hand your laptop around the room and make comments on your word processing file. Take a deep breath and actually print these out on paper.

- No credit for sending your copy by email.
- No credit for bringing it in later.