

Autobiographical Paragraphs

This assignment enables you to practice writing on a limited subject and to create strong introductions for your personal essays.

Keep in mind the essay “Only Daughter” by Sandra Cisneros as well as “Once More to the Lake” by E. B. White.

By definition, a paragraph consists of a group of five sentences which express one central idea with strong supportive concepts.

The essay pattern to use is Narrative.

OBJECTIVES

1. Brain storm for 15 minutes about particular happy events in your childhood.
Use either an *intense* mapping, listing, or free write method.
2. Be sure to narrow down the broad topic “childhood” to a smaller, manageable theme suitable for a personal essay. Remember you want to narrow the topic sufficiently to focus your essay’s theme. Find an epiphany moment in your childhood.
3. Essay Length: two full pages, or more; follow standard MLA guidelines.
4. When writing your first draft, be sure all paragraphs include topic sentences.
Be sure to support the topic with secondary evidence details.
5. Create an interesting, intricate, descriptive introduction which clearly shows the focus of your essay and leads the reader into subsequent paragraphs.
6. Be sure each new paragraph includes a strong transitional phrase.
7. Use five or more sentences per paragraph.
8. Limit the use of the first personal “I” voice. Do not center the paper’s energy on yourself as the central figure. The subject should focus on an event or an activity from your years before high school.
9. Exercises are due Thursday, 09.30.10.
10. *Be sure to proof your work.*