Memoir

Format Guidelines:

- I will not accept electronic copies of this essay; you must hand in a paper copy at the start of class on the due date or else you will receive a zero on this assignment. Plan ahead.
- Do NOT use research in this composition!!!!!! This should be based on your own personal experience, and using someone else's, even for inspiration, is cheating. You are also not allowed to work with a classmate. Even if you and a friend shared an experience, you should not write the same memoir or work together.
- The format for this paper is as follows: 12 pt Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, double spaced. If you must hand write your essay, you must still have 1 inch margins (don't forget to erase the margin lines after you're done writing). It should still be double spaced, and your handwriting should be NEAT (not just legible) with no scribbles or cross outs (you can use white out to correct mistakes). You must write all final drafts in blue or black ink, NEVER IN PENCIL.
- This is a 2-5 page assignment. Going over or under that limit will result in significant loss of credit. (If you feel you are the exception to this rule, please see me.)
- Your paper should have a title that is original and clearly conveys the main idea of your memoir (Memoir is not an appropriate title). Your title should NOT be italicized, underlined, in bold, in a larger/different font, or in quotation marks. It should be centered and placed one line after your heading. Do not use a title page.
- The following heading should appear in the upper left corner of your first page:
  Your Name
  Your Teacher's Name
  The period your class meets (i.e. Period 1)
  Due Date

  The format of this essay counts for 20 points of your overall grade!!! By simply following these directions, you will earn 20 points 😊

Prewriting is NEVER optional!! You must brainstorm and write a rough draft of this assignment. Your prewriting will count for 20 points of your overall grade.

This means that you will hand in your rubric, your prewriting, and your final draft on the day the essay is due.

Assignment:
A memoir is an account of a personal, emotional experience that attempts to allow the reader to feel what the writer felt in that moment. Your task is to write your own memoir. You must:
- focus on ONE specific memory (winning the science fair, scoring the winning point during a basketball game, a car accident, breaking your leg, getting your first pet, etc.) Be careful not to ramble onto tangents. Your goal is not to describe an entire year of your life. The action in your memoir should have a short time span (i.e. an hour, even a day is pushing it). Quickly explain the context of the incident, and then focus on the experience itself. Keep it school appropriate, and remember that I am a mandatory reporter.
- make sure the reader can empathize with you, can understand how you felt and experience the emotions you felt at the time you're describing
- include enough details to paint a clear picture of the experience
- condense or expand your thoughts to fit within 2-5 pages. Remember that if you go over or under your page limit, it will result in significant loss of credit.

As always, I am available for extra help. If you are confused or want me to look at a piece of your memoir to see if you are on the right track, feel free to come and see me.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>Simplistic or inaccurate vocabulary.</td>
<td>Effective vocabulary.</td>
<td>Apt and high level vocabulary.</td>
<td>Virtually no errors in vocabulary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Lack of organization.</td>
<td>Limited organization.</td>
<td>Some organization.</td>
<td>Logically organized from beginning to end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotion</td>
<td>Little emotion is expressed, which doesn't allow the reader to feel or understand the writer's emotion.</td>
<td>Some emotions are clearly expressed, allowing the reader to feel and understand the writer's emotions.</td>
<td>Emotions are clearly and creatively expressed, allowing the reader to feel and understand the writer's emotions fully.</td>
<td>The reader can understand and feel the emotions you went through during your assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Not enough detail or detail not relevant.</td>
<td>Appropriate details.</td>
<td>Clear and creative use of many interesting and relevant details.</td>
<td>Clear and creative use of many interesting and relevant details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time span</td>
<td>Focuses on two or more incidents within a short time span.</td>
<td>One incident within a short time span.</td>
<td>Almost all contextual focus on one incident within a short time span.</td>
<td>Almost all contextual focus on one incident within a short time span.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scoring Considered
- 10-9: Excellent
- 8.5-8: Good
- 7.5-7: Fair
- 6.5-6: Poor
- 5 and below: Failing