

Coming Of Age: A Memoir Scrapbook

English IV Honors: 2018

Graduation from high school marks the perfect time to see where you have been, where you are, and where you hope to go. This project is intended to give you the opportunity to reflect in writing and through visuals on your own coming of age.

Your task is to construct a memoir scrapbook containing at least ten (10) vignettes modeled after those in *Angela's Ashes*, *Born a Crime*, and *I Am Malala* for the class and others to see and read. (Remember: a vignette is a short, descriptive piece of writing on a topic.)

THIS PROJECT REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF YOUR SIXTH SIX WEEKS GRADE (About 7 in-class academic practice grades plus two academic achievement grades). THE FINAL DUE DATE FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE MAY 14.

Memoir Scrapbook Project Instructions:

1. Each student will make his or her own scrapbook. You may collaborate to gather ideas, **but your work must be your own**. One Scrapbook will be turned in per person.
2. The memoir scrapbook will represent memories ranging from early childhood to this year. **A minimum of five autobiographical polished vignettes** will be included. Each polished vignette should be accompanied by a photo, object (ticket stub, brochure) or self-created visual that connects to the vignette. **You will also include the five vignette drafts that you did not choose to revise in a separate section towards the back of the scrapbook.**
3. Make sure that you have a **cover** AND a **title page** AND a **table of contents** for your scrapbook.
4. You must have **at least five polished vignettes (750-1000 words) within** your scrapbook. What you write should be thoughtful and well-written. Vignettes should be ordered chronologically according to subject matter with a title for each. One of the five vignettes should be neatly handwritten in ink. The remaining vignettes may be typed in size 12 font of your choice.
5. Your scrapbook may be made out of construction paper, scrapbook materials, etc. It should have a **cover** and look like an album or scrapbook, tied or fastened on the side in some way. Sorry, no electronic scrapbooks. Please do NOT make/print your scrapbook in MS Word; it will come out **ugly, TACKY**, and of poor quality. *Ugly may be a matter of taste or genetics, but tacky is a choice.*
6. **Creativity, neatness, and effort** will be reflected in your grade. Meeting basic requirements will earn a passing grade only. Going beyond what I ask you to do will earn you an A. This is your last chance to impress me, so make it count! You may use photographs, tickets stubs, newspaper/magazine cutouts, illustrations, etc. Please make sure photographs are not originals.
7. Attach the **grading sheet** to the inside cover of the scrapbook when you turn it in. Failure to do so will provide me with enough frustrated ammunition to load a 30-minute rant at this year's teacher "Mediocre Minutes" of the year. (Mediocre Minutes is the teacher version of happy hour in which teachers maintain boring pseudo-intellectual conversation over non-alcoholic beverages. It is our model of how to have a safe and moral good time).
8. There will be several deadlines before your final scrapbook is due. If you have any questions, I may answer them...UNLESS I have already answered the question for the class. In that case, put down your phone and develop common courtesy for those speaking. You may also try Google or a Magic 8 ball.
9. The subject matter of each page must be **appropriate**, or you will receive a failing grade. If you have any doubts about the appropriateness of your subject matter, just copy everything my favorite student does.
10. Vignettes chosen for the scrapbook will be evaluated based on how each of the following stylistic devices is employed: imagery, figurative language, dialogue, snapshots, thought-shots, and pacing.

Possible Vignette Topics: Each of the topics listed are categories that will serve to prompt your composition of the vignette. Remember to focus the majority of the vignette around one particular event connected to the prompt.

1. Childhood Home Memories
2. Random topics from Easter Egg Hunt
3. *Angela's Ashes*, *Born a Crime*, or *I Am Malala* quote connection
4. Reflect on those experiences and relationships in which good came out of bad, beauty out of pain.
5. Write about a time you "play-acted" or pretended to be someone you weren't to be normal.
6. Write about a conversation that had an impact on your life. Show the scene where the conversation happened, and try to reconstruct parts of the dialogue word-for-word on the page so the readers can "hear" it first-hand.
7. Was there anything unusual or unique about your birth?
8. What is your earliest memory?
9. What is your first memory about your siblings, parents, pets, toys, or house?
10. What is your happiest childhood memory? Your saddest?
11. What is your first memory about school?
12. Who was your favorite teacher?
13. What was your favorite subject in school?
14. What do you wish you would have learned more about in school?
15. What schoolmate had the most impact on your life? In what way?
16. Who was your first best friend? How did they influence your life?
17. What did you learn about yourself in high school?
18. What was the first moment you felt truly grown up or independent?
19. How old were you when you began to drive?
20. Who gave you your first kiss?
21. What is your best memory as a teenager with your friends?
22. What was your first job?
23. What moment in your life have you felt most loved?
24. Which one of your parents are you most like?
25. What have you done that you never thought you would do?
26. Who do you wish you could see again?
27. Who was the biggest influence (positive or negative) on your life?
28. How were your belief systems formed? (religion, politics, family, etc.)
29. How is your family unique?
30. What do your pet peeves reveal about you?
31. What do your tastes reveal about you? (food, music, clothes, books, etc.)
32. What regrets do you have?
33. Snapshot/photo memory
34. Writer's Choice...