

Name:
Period:

Autobiography Project:

Objectives:

- Practice formal essay writing
- Become familiar with primary sources and how they are used in writing
- Develop self-reflective writing

Parts:

- 4 paragraph formal essay includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion
- A well-defined thesis that answers the question: Who are you and how did you become the person you are today?
- Evidence that draws on your personal history, cultural background, interviews with family and friends, and other primary sources
- Analysis that explains how these different aspects of your life contribute to the person you are today
- Topic sentences that introduce each body paragraph
- **Appendix** that includes the following:
 1. Family Tree
 2. Personal Timeline
 3. Interview with a family member or friend
 4. A picture (photographic or drawn) of yourself
 5. 2 Artifacts (Primary Sources) of your choice (objects, pictures, copies of birth certificates, diplomas, etc.)
 6. Outline or rough draft of your essay

Due Date: Thursday, October 14, 2004

Points:

- Essay: 65 points
- Appendix: 35 points

Total Points: 100 points

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Essay Outline:

Essay Question: Who are you and how did you become the person you are today?

Directions: Answer the essay question by completing this essay outline either on this worksheet or on a separate piece of paper. Remember to answer each part completely.

I. Introduction:

- A. Introduce yourself briefly including your full name, age, and family background (1-3 sentences)

- B. Thesis: Write a thesis statement that answers the question: Who are you and how did you become the person you are today? Include 2 reasons.

II. Body Paragraph 1: Family, social, and cultural background and their influences on your life. For this paragraph think about what has been most influential in shaping your identity (who you are): Family? Friends? Culture? City, etc.?

- A. Topic Sentence

- B. Evidence #1:

- C. Analysis: Explain how the above evidence influenced you

- D. Evidence #2:

- E. Analysis: Explain how the second piece of evidence influenced you

III. Body Paragraph 2: Important events in your life and how they influenced your identity. Pick 2 events that you think were most important

A. Topic Sentence:

B. Event #1 (evidence): Describe the event

C. Analysis: Explain how this event influenced your identity

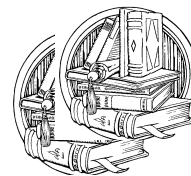
D. Event #2 (evidence): Describe the event

E. Analysis: Explain how the second event influenced your identity

IV: Conclusion: Restate your thesis: Who are you and why. Predict who you think you might become and why.

A: Restate your thesis

B: Predict who you think you will become in the future and why.



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Personal Illustrated Timeline:

Directions: Create a timeline of your life up to this point. Your birth will be the starting point. You must include **at least 5** significant events for your timeline. Those events might include the births of siblings, marriages, attending school, deaths of friends and family, first recitals, dances, etc. Include whatever events (both positive and negative) you feel are important to you and influenced your identity. For each event include a date, caption (brief description that is no more than 6 words), and a symbol or picture that represents that event. Create a rough draft of your timeline on this paper but **your final timeline must be on a separate piece of paper.**



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Interview with a family member or friend

Directions: Interview a family member or friend. Ask at least 4 questions and write the answers down in complete sentences. Try to use that person's words as much as possible. Try to ask questions that will help you better understand yourself and how other people see you. Do not ask simple yes or no questions. All questions should require thoughtful responses.

Name of Interviewee (the person you are interviewing):

Relationship to the Interviewee:

Question #1:

Response:

Question #2:

Response:

Question #3:

Response:

Question #4:

Response:

