Snapshot Autobiography

Part 1

What is history? Many people describe history as the study of the past, a huge collection of names, dates, and facts that you are expected to memorize. This year, we will work to discover that history is so much more than this! The goal of this assignment is for you to discover other meanings of history and to recognize why it is important to study and think like a historian.

In this project, you will think about the meaning of history by describing and illustrating several events from your own life, finding a witness to provide another description of one of those events, and thinking about the similarities and differences between the two descriptions.

1) Take a blank, regular size piece of paper and fold it so that it forms 3 panels (like a brochure or a letter you’d mail). Counting front and back, you should have 6 panels.

2) The first panel is the cover for your Snapshot Autobiography
   • Give your autobiography a title, for example, “Kathy’s Life in a Snapshot”
   • Include a picture of yourself. (This can be hand drawn 😊)

3) On the back panel, write a brief “About the Author” section.
   • Include your name, place, date of birth, and anything else you want people to know about you (hobbies, school and grade you are in, places you’ve lived, other family members, pets, future goals, etc.)
   • Remember, this is an autobiography, so you should write in the 1st person point of view the entire time.

4) This leaves 4 panels.
   • In the first panel (flap), write about your birth or first memory (Remember, the journal entry you originally did was a quick write. If you choose to use it, make sure some editing and revising takes place).
   • In the other panels (inside with brochure open), you are going to write about important events that have shaped you as a person. This means you are selecting three important events (besides your birth or first memory) from your life. They should be written in chronological (time) order.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR EVENTS:

• You will be interviewing another person about one of these events, so make sure to pick at least one event that someone else knows about.
• For each of these events, write a narrative describing what happened. Make sure you describe it from start to finish. Pretend that someone who doesn’t know you will be reading your story and trying to understand it. Be sure to include details!
• Each event should include a title that reflects the main idea.
• Illustrate each event with a picture (can be actual photographs, pictures printed from the Internet, or handrawn).
Part 2

Name _______________________ Period _____

Now is your chance to talk to somebody else about one of the important events you chose.

1) Select one of the events you wrote about.
2) Find somebody who remembers that event. For example, a parent, grandparent, sibling, or friend who will be familiar with the event you described.
3) Ask the person you chose to tell you their version of the story. In order to make sure that you are getting their version, ask them an open question about the event, for example, “Mom, do you remember when Jane and I started being friends in fifth grade? Can you tell me what you remember about when we met?”
   • Take careful notes of the interview. Pay attention to which parts of their story are different from your own.
   • Make sure you thank the interviewee for their participation in this project 😊

Name of the person being interviewed: _______________________________________

Relation to you: __________________________

Event from Snapshot Autobiography they will be corroborating (cross-checking):
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Interview Notes:
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

What do the two stories have in common? (complete sentences)
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

What is different about the two stories? (complete sentences)
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
# Snapshot Autobiography Rubric

## Part 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cover Panel</strong></td>
<td>Properly capitalized title and includes a picture/self-portrait.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>About the Author Panel</strong></td>
<td>You have included your name, place of birth, and date of birth. You have also included other details about yourself. You have written in first person point of view.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birth/First Memory Panel</strong></td>
<td>Your title is properly capitalized and reflects the main idea. You have written a first person narrative of the event from start to finish. Details help the reader understand the event. The picture you have chosen is neat and appropriate to the event.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event #2 Panel</strong></td>
<td>Your title is properly capitalized and reflects the main idea. You have written a first person narrative of the event from start to finish. Details help the reader understand the event. The picture you have chosen is neat and appropriate to the event.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event #3 Panel</strong></td>
<td>Your title is properly capitalized and reflects the main idea. You have written a first person narrative of the event from start to finish. Details help the reader understand the event. The picture you have chosen is neat and appropriate to the event.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Event #4 Panel</strong></td>
<td>Your title is properly capitalized and reflects the main idea. You have written a first person narrative of the event from start to finish. Details help the reader understand the event. The picture you have chosen is neat and appropriate to the event.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td>Your panels are presented chronologically. Events on each individual panel are also narrated chronologically.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conventions</strong></td>
<td>Your errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation are minimal. You have clearly edited your work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neatness</strong></td>
<td>Your final project is neatly done in ink. You have clearly used a ruler to make sure your writing is straight (or, you may have typed). Your pictures are neatly placed in logical places and are fitted to the page. Your writing fits neatly on each panel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Part 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name/Relation/Event/Notes</strong></td>
<td>All parts are filled out. Your notes are clear evidence that you had an in depth discussion with someone in your life about the event you chose.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Similarities</strong></td>
<td>You have used complete sentences to clearly compare your version of the story to the way someone else in your life remembers it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Differences</strong></td>
<td>You have used complete sentences to clearly contrast your version of the story to the way someone else in your life remembers it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Celebrations:

Concentrations:

___________ / 48