

# Personal Experience Essay

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Scores: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Due Date for ERD (edited\* rough draft) .....Monday, September 20.**

\*evidence of editing and a signature by a parent, grandparent, babysitter or someone who knows more than you.

**Due Date for PC (polished copy\*) .....Monday, September 27**

\*polished copy refers to a typed paper with these guidelines:

- Typed in 14 pt. Times New Roman or plain-type font, 1.5 or double spaced
- Printed in black ink on plain white paper
- **Without** a report cover or plastic sleeves
- With the ERD and evaluation sheet attached

**Prompt: Write an essay about a personal experience that was important to you.**

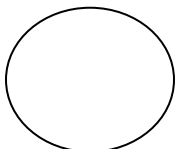
**Purpose: To share and explain an experience from your life. (Yes, this essay can be used as the focus or topic of the Autobiography presentation) MAKE AN EXTRA COPY for yourself TO use when organizing/writing/practicing YOUR SPEECH.**

**Two** grades will be awarded for your essay based on the rubrics outlined below.

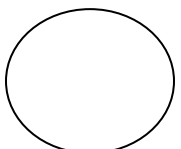
## **The essay must have a clear beginning, middle and end.**

- A **beginning** grabs the reader's interest; sometimes it gives background information and hints about the meaning or importance of the event.
- A middle tells about important events, describes people and places, and tells the writer's thoughts and feelings in detail.
- An ending explains the outcome and shows the meaning of the experience and what the writer learned from it.

## **Content Evaluation**

- |   |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| I. Grabs the reader's attention at the beginning. (10)  | _____ |  |
| II. Focuses on <b>one</b> experience and why it is important to the reader. (15)                  | _____ |   |
| III. Provides background information and details as needed. (15)                                  | _____ |   |
| IV. Uses descriptive language and details to help the reader fully appreciate the experience (25) | _____ |   |
| V. Has a clear beginning, middle and end. (10)  | _____ |   |
| VI. Has a strong conclusion that summarizes the importance of the experience. (10)                | _____ |   |
| VII. Entertains the reader with style and personality on paper (voice) (10)                       | _____ |   |
| VII. Grading sheet (5)  | _____ |   |

## **Mechanical Evaluation**

- |   |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| I. Written in complete sentences. (20)  | _____ |  |
| II. Written in well organized multi-paragraphs (20)   | _____ |   |
| III. Essay flows well and is easy to follow (10)  | _____ |   |
| IV. Essay has a minimum of capitalization, punctuation, spelling and grammatical errors. (30) | _____ |   |
| VIII. Polished copy is turned in neat and according to directions <b><u>with ERD</u></b> (20) | _____ |   |

## Personal Experience Essay Planning guide

# IDEAS

- Tell about a terrifying experience that you had when you were young.
- Describe an important social event that you took part in. (wedding, church party, sports event, etc.)
- Tell about a family outing or vacation. What did you learn from the experience?
- Have you ever been involved in some serious wrongdoing? What lesson did you learn from the experience?
- Have you ever been involved in a generous act of kindness? What lesson did you learn from the experience?
- Relate an exciting experience from which you developed a particular talent or interest.
- All of us learn from our failures as well as successes. What is something you gained from an unsuccessful experience?
- Have you ever wanted something so badly that you would do anything to get it? How did you feel after you received or got the thing that you desired? Did it make your life happier or more miserable? Tell about such an experience.

## SPECIFIC IS TERRIFIC!!!!

The more **descriptive** language you use, the more you will place the reader right there in the experience with you.

Use: See, hear, smell, feel, taste.

Describe: Emotions, thoughts, actions.

(What were you thinking, feeling and doing?)

Remember... The **beginning** grabs the reader's attention and introduces the experience (people, setting, etc.).

The **middle** describes the experience with **detail** and explains the importance of the incident.

The **end** tells the outcome or results of the experience and presents the writer's feelings about the experience.

**Finish your essay by concluding how this experience had/has influenced you.**

**IF YOU STILL CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING....**

A good place to start is with the word I.

Write.....I was.....I saw..... I did..... I went..... I cried..... I screamed.....

NOW, just write from your heart.....double space or skip every other line so you will have room to edit, add, remove....After the entire experience is written, go back and review. Add details. What did you smell, see, hear??? Describe the colors of the "things" you wrote about. BE POSITIVE! EVERYONE HAS HAD EXPERIENCES!!! YOU CAN DO IT!