Six Word Memoirs (6WM)

One life. Six words. *What's yours?*

Famous:

"Well, I thought it was funny."

– Stephen Colbert

"MY DIARY IS READ BY EVERYONE."

–TAYLOR SWIFT

Not so famous:

"Cursed with cancer. Blessed with friends."

"I colored outside of the lines."

"Got three sisters and no dad."

Tips for writing 6WM:

1. **It only works if it's personal.** Because it's a memoir, it should be specific to your life.
2. **Limitations force you to be creative.** Write a great memoir BECAUSE of the parameter, not in spite of it.
3. **Get inspired by reading other memoirs.** I'll have several YouTube clips of memoirs for you to view for inspiration.
4. **Like any other piece, make revisions**. Put the six best words in the best order. Together, we'll make a list of words you MAY NOT USE in your 6WM.
5. **Synonyms strengthen memoirs and add meaning.** In class, we'll practice finding synonyms to make your memoir stronger.
6. **Publish your story to inspire others.** We will be making a class slideshow of all the memoirs. You may also choose to publish your 6WM online.

REQUIREMENTS:

Completion of 6WM Stations (passport filled) ____/20 points

6 attempts at a 6WM ____/30 points

Multimedia presentation, including: ____/50 points

- the text of your best 6WM (font should reflect the tone of your piece)
- still image/ video clip/ animation/ background music (should reflect the theme/emotion of your piece)

____/100 points total

Six Word Memoir – Grading Rubric **Name: _____**

6WM Best Draft Multimedia Presentation	**Points Possible**	**Points Received**
...includes a six-word memoir with vivid, powerful, and specific word choice.	20	
...includes image/video clip/ animation. Visuals compliment the memoir without distracting from the text.	10	
...project acknowledges authors of content (images, video, or music) not originated by student	5	
...reflects the theme/emotion of the memoir.	5	
...contains no errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.	10	
TOTAL	**50**	

RESOURCES AND EXAMPLES

http://youtu.be/DW8hOX6QcLk (shay's english class)

http://youtu.be/jEkAHATRuRU (8th grade 6 word memoirs)

http://youtu.be/ejndNExso9M (numbered memoirs - pick one that matches you best, then try your own!)

http://www.cbsnews.com/2100-500186_162-3876944.html?tag=google (CBS morning show)

http://sixwordmemoir.wikispaces.com/ (six word memoir wiki)

Six Word Memoir Writing Stations PASSPORT

STATION 1
Watch a news story about 6WM

Directions:
1. Google “CBS News Six Word Memoirs”.
2. Watch the video
3. On the back of this paper, take notes.

STATION 2
This is Me

Directions:
1. On the table, use the paper labeled “This is Me” to draft several 6WMs.
2. Use the prompts on the “This is Me” handout to help you create memoirs.
3. The words on the “This is Me” form count as part of your 6 words in this exercise.

Example:

I am happiest when I nap. (6 words total)

STATION 3
Word Choice:
Connotation and Denotation Practice

Directions:
1. On the table, use the worksheet to practice identifying the nuances between synonyms.
2. Complete both parts of the worksheet.

STATION 4
Revise and edit your own 6WM

Directions:
1. Review your rough drafts.
2. Replace dull words with spicier ones. Use the thesaurus. Think about picking the best words possible to tell your story.
3. Play with different punctuation possibilities.

Attempt #1

Attempt #2

Attempt #3

Attempt #4

Attempt #5

Attempt #6

STATION #1

Watch a news story about 6WM

Directions:

- Google “CBS News Six Word Memoirs”.
- Watch the video
- On the back of your Passport, take notes on the video.

STATION 2

This is Me Brainstorm and Rough Draft

Directions:

- On the table, use the paper labeled “This is Me” to draft several 6WMs.
- Use the prompts on the “This is Me” handout to help you create memoirs.
- The words on the “This is Me” form count as part of your 6 words in this exercise.

Example:

I am happiest when I nap. (6 words total)

STATION 3

Word Choice:
Connotation and Denotation Practice

Directions:

1. On the table, use the worksheet to practice identifying the nuances between synonyms.

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