

A Special Day in My Life

Recalling a Special Day That You Will Remember Forever

Project Summary: Telling others about memorable experiences is something we all do. In this project, you will tell about a day in your life that was so special you will always remember it. It might have been a day when you went somewhere new and exciting. It could be a time when you did something for the first time. Maybe it was a scary, an embarrassing, or a thrilling experience. You will write about a day in your life you think you will remember forever.

Purpose: Your goal is to tell an interesting story that both informs (gives information) and entertains (is interesting).

Writer's Role: You are writing as yourself, of course. You are the expert on this information, because you were there.

Audience: Your audience is other members of our class who are anxious to know the details about your day. Remember, they weren't there, so they need all the details.

Form: You will write a memoir, a story about a personal experience.

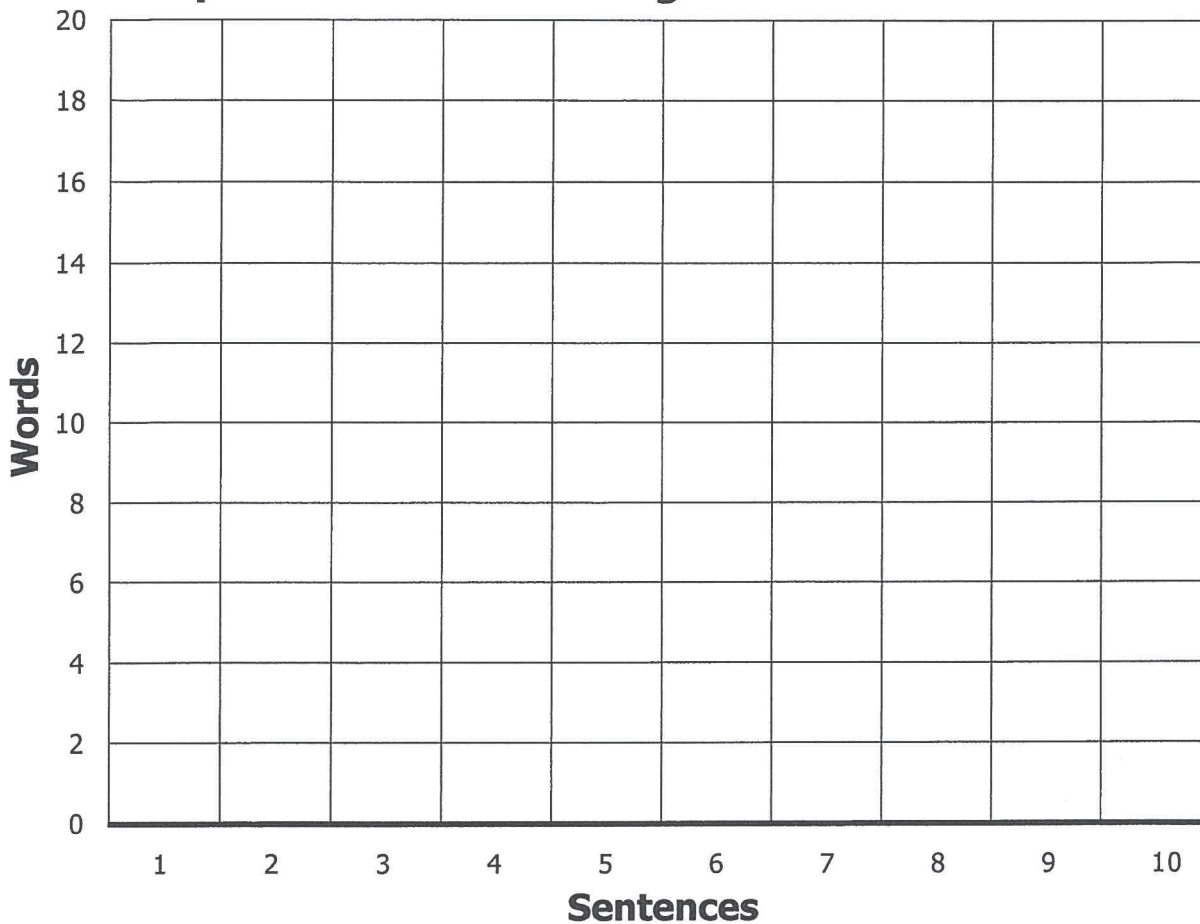
Focus Correction Areas:

1. Interesting Lead (use a technique that will grab the reader's attention)
2. 5 Ws with Details (give who, when, where, why, and what information plus details for added interest)
3. Sentence Variety

Procedures: Before you write your memoir, we will do several things in class:

- I will tell you about a memorable day in my life. After I tell you, we will chart some of the details that are important.
- Type One Writing: Write about a day that was memorable. It could be a holiday, birthday, vacation experience, or a special day at school. Choose a day that you think you will remember details about for a long time.
- We will discuss the Type One Writing. We will choose one or two experiences and make a chart of the 5Ws for the story. Use a simple graphic organizer by tracing your own hand and labeling each finger with one of the 5Ws. Then you will list ideas that might go into your memoir.
- We will read the beginnings of several stories and talk about what the author did to grab the reader's attention. We will come up with a list of techniques that writers use for interesting leads.
- Draft your memoir.
- Read your memoir in a one-foot voice, and make any changes you feel will improve your piece.
- Work with a partner and get feedback on your writing; use the Sentence Variety Worksheet to check on the variety of your sentence lengths and beginnings.
- Write your final draft with all the improvements you have made.

Graph for Sentence Length



Sentence Beginnings

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____