

## A Moment in Time

### *Writing About a Special Time That Involved Someone Else*

**Project Summary:** We all have memorable moments in our lives, times that we look back on with fondness. Often those special times involve other people who may not even be aware of the importance of the moment. For example, you might recall a time when someone gave you a word of encouragement just at the moment you were about to give up and needed it most. Maybe you remember a small act of kindness from someone that meant more to you than that person could have imagined. Perhaps you recall a time that someone said or did something to you that, at the time, you didn't like or understand, but that now you do understand or appreciate. In this assignment, you will recall one of those special moments and write a brief memoir about it.

**Purpose:** In this personal memoir, your purpose is to tell a story and describe the significance of that "moment in time." You may have fully appreciated the special moment at the time, or maybe it was only later that you understood its importance.

**Writer's Role:** You will describe the memory from your point of view.

**Audience:** Your audience for this piece is the other person (or persons) involved in your memoir. Your memoir will be a gift for that person, helping him or her to understand how a shared moment has become an enduring memory for you.

**Form:** This will be a multiparagraph memoir.

**Focus Correction Areas:**

1. Attention-Getting Lead
2. 5 Ws Plus How (be clear about who was involved, what happened, when and where it took place, why it was an important part of your life, and how you felt about it at the time—and now)
3. Sentence Variety (be sure to vary sentence beginnings and lengths)

**Procedures:** Before writing your memoir, you will do several activities in class:

- You will do three different Type One Writing experiences to help you identify a memorable moment you would like to write about. Each will be a quick-write. Write eight to ten lines about (1) a time when someone offered help or encouragement to you; (2) a time when someone said or did something that you only later fully appreciated; (3) a time when someone shared a special accomplishment or achievement with you.
- You will choose one of your memories to write about. We will take some time in class for you to brainstorm around the 5 Ws Plus How. You will make notes for your own reference.
- Draft your memoir. Due date: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Read your draft in a one-foot voice; make changes you feel will improve your memoir.
- Work with a partner to get feedback on your memoir; double-check your FCAs to make sure you have done a good job in those areas.
- Write a second draft with all of your improvements. Due date: \_\_\_\_\_.

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