

Professor Fevronia K. Soumakis
ENG 101- College Writing I
February 1, 2023

Student Name: _____

Lab Work: Brainstorming a Story to Tell
Due: Feb 1 to Dropbox e360 by 11:59pm

A. Generating Ideas and Text

Make a list of 3 events or circumstances in your own life, or in the lives of those very close to you that still provoke your curiosity. Mine your life for the events and circumstances that still raise questions in your mind. Choose one of the questions that you are willing to explore.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Think about the events or circumstances surrounding your question. Consider how well you can recall what happened, how interesting it will be to readers, and whether you wish to share it with an audience.

Focus on one, specific thing related to that question: a person, place, experience, event, day, moment, relationship, etc. It does not have to be earthshaking; indeed, it may involve a quiet moment that only you see as important — a brief encounter with a remarkable person, a visit to a special place, a memorable achievement (or failure), something that makes you laugh whenever you think about it. Writing about events that happened at least a few years ago is often easier than writing about recent events because you can more easily step back and see those events with a clear perspective.

- 1.

B. Think about what happened

Take a few minutes to write out an account of the experience:

WHAT happened, WHERE it took place, WHO else was involved, what was said, how you feel about it, and so on. Can you identify any tension or conflict that will make for a compelling story? If not, you might want to rethink your topic.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C. Consider its significance

Why do you still remember this event? What effect has it had on your life? What makes you want to tell someone else about it? Does it say anything about you? What about it might interest someone else? If you have trouble answering these questions, you should probably find another topic. But in general, once you have defined the significance of the incident, you can be sure you have a story to tell — and a reason for telling it.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

D. Think about the details

The best memoirs connect with readers by giving them a sense of what it was like to be there, leading them to experience in words and images what the writer experienced in life.

Spend some time DESCRIBING the incident, writing what you see, hear, smell, touch, and taste when you envision it?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write a DIALOGUE, things that were said (or, if you can't recall exactly, things that might have been said). Look at what you come up with — is there detail enough to bring the scene to life? Anything that might be called vivid? If you don't have enough detail, you might reconsider whether you recall enough about the incident to write about it.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.