

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class#: _____

Six-Word Memoirs (6WM)

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

Due
Friday 9-16

Famous:

"Well, I thought it was funny."

– Stephen Colbert

"Everyone reads what's in my diary."

–Taylor Swift

Not so famous:

"Cursed with cancer. Blessed with friends."

"I colored outside of the lines."

"Got three sisters and no dad."

A **memoir** is a narrative written from a personal experience. Over the next couple of days, each of you will be writing **a six-word memoir** that communicates something you think is important about you as a person. Here are some tips to get you thinking.

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 have a YouTube clip of memoirs for you to view for inspiration. There is also a sheet of example memoirs in this packet. I've even written my own 6WM, and will share it with you, as well as my own writing process.
4. **Like any other story, make revisions.** Put the six best words in the best order. Words to not use: *the, a, an*.
5. **Put the six best words in the best order.** In order to make our memoirs as strong as possible, we'll be following a specific process that includes *brainstorming, a rough draft, a synonym study* and a *final draft*.
6. **Publish your story to inspire others.** We will be "publishing" our 6WM anonymously by writing a final draft on a sheet of construction paper, which I will then post around the classroom.

Assignment Instructions:

1. **Write Rough Draft.** Begin to narrow down your memoir to around six words. Try writing several different versions of your memoir, changing words and experimenting with different word orders.

2. **Complete "Choosing the Best Word" Synonym Sheet.** Using a thesaurus or dictionary, look up *at least two synonyms* for each of your two focus words.
3. **Write Final Draft.** Be sure to write the final draft of your 6WM on the top of your copy of the grading rubric *and* on a sheet of construction paper (display copy). *Do not* write your name on the display copy of your memoir.
4. **Turn it in!** Arrange your papers in the following order, from top to bottom: Grading Rubric (with final draft written on top), "Choosing the Best Word" sheet, Rough draft. Staple. Turn you display copy along with the other documents, but please *not staple* it.

Friday September 16th

Due: No later than ~~Tuesday, August 28rd~~, at the beginning of class.

Examples of Six-Word Memoirs

Desperate to explore, yet stuck here.

Laughed at all the wrong moments.

He left. Mom cried. Roller-coaster ride.

Always took every opportunity I got.

I will be a paramedic someday.

I fulfilled my awkwardness quota today.

First, I made captain. Then enemies.

Asked to quiet down; spoke louder.

Still have not learned to swim.

Nothing profound, I just sat around.

Born in California. Then nothing happened.

Never really finished anything, except cake.

I still make coffee for two.

Not quite what I was planning.

Someone had to pay the bills.

Cried. Defied. Denied. Sighed. Cried. Reapplied.

I don't understand what you're asking.

I decided to be happy anyway.

Lost myself for popular kids' approval.

I live bigger than your labels.

Finally learned "weird" is a compliment.

I like to fix broken things.

Well, I thought it was funny.

Defined by numbers: age, weight, ACT's.

I like myself more without makeup.

A boy wizard saved my life.

Six-Word Memoir Brainstorming

Use this worksheet to help you generate ideas about the information you would like to include in your six-word memoir.

MY FAVORITES

MY PERSONALITY

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT ME

MY EARLY CHILDHOOD

PET PEEVES

THE FUTURE

Choosing the Best Word: Six-Word Memoirs

Focus Word #1:

Synonyms:

Focus Word #2:

Synonyms:

Six-Word Memoir Grading Rubric

Name _____

Hour _____

Final Draft of Memoir _____

Final Draft x 4	4	3	2	1
Punctuation/ Grammar/ spelling	No punctuation, grammar, or spelling errors	One punctuation, grammar, or spelling error	Two punctuation, grammar or spelling errors	Three or more punctuation, grammar or spelling errors
Text			Text is six words in length and can be clearly read.	Text is not six words in length and / or cannot be clearly read. Or, a final draft has not been turned in.
Word Choice / Story	Text uses precise words in the best order to clearly communicate an autobiographical element to the audience.	Text uses words in an effective order to communicate an autobiographical element to the audience.	Text is weak in the following areas: an autobiographical element and/or poor word choice /word order.	Text fails to communicate an autobiographical element to the audience and word choice is poor.

Rough Draft / Synonym Sheet x 4	4	3	2	1
Level of completion		Student has entirely completed both a rough draft and a synonym sheet	Student has partially completed a rough draft and / or a synonym sheet	Student has not completed / has not turned in a rough draft and / or a synonym sheet.

Total Points: / 52