

Autobiography Format Sample

- I. **Theme:** Each autobiography must have a theme. This theme will be depicted on the cover, in the chapter titles, in the chapter dividers, and as the starting paragraph to each chapter. The first step to the autobiography is coming up with a theme that is important to you.
- II. **Make a Creative Cover PAGE:** Your autobiography should be in a three prong folder with a creative cover page that somehow reflects your theme.
 - A. If your three-prong folder does not have a clear cover, cover the outside with material that reflects your theme (e.g., a collage of magazine pictures or objects that reflect your theme, your own artwork that reflects your theme, etc.
 - B. If your three-prong folder does have a clear cover, the first page should be your cover page with material that reflects your theme, as in part A.
- III **Title PAGE:** The title page is the first page of your autobiography and contains:
 - A. Your name
 - B. The title of your autobiography that reflects your theme
 - C. Publication date (date you finish the book)
 - D. Illustrations or photos (optional)
- IV. **Dedication PAGE:** The next page in your autobiography is the dedication page. This should contain one paragraph (at least five sentences) that dedicates your autobiography to those people that have been the most helpful to you during your life and/or during the completion of your project.
- V. **Table of Contents:** This is the next page of your autobiography. It should contain:
 - A. TABLE OF CONTENTS written at the top center of the page
 - B. Chapter numbers and chapter titles listed down the paper (for example: Chapter One *A Star is Born*, Chapter Two *Stage Fright*, etc.
 - C. The chapter titles should reflect the theme your autobiography
- VI. **"I Am" Poem** (already completed!)
- VII. **Chapter Dividers/pages:** These pages will precede each chapter. They should contain:
 - A. Chapter number (on the divider, if used)
 - B. The chapter title
 - C. An illustration reflecting the theme that builds from chapter to chapter (can be clip art, photo, hand-drawn, etc.)
- VIII. **Written Chapters:** You may choose to write as many chapters as you like, but 6-8 quality chapters are required. The grade break-down is as follows:

***Eight Chapters--Highest grade possible=A

***Seven Chapters--Highest grade possible=B

***Six Chapters--Highest grade possible=C

- A. Chapter number and title as header on right top of page
- B. An introductory paragraph tying the overall theme to the chapter.
- C. Quality writing – use spell check and re-read for grammar errors.
- D. Each chapter must be at least ¾-1 full page typed (standard 12 font (1 inch margins)

IX. **Illustrations:** At least FOUR illustrations total should accompany your autobiography chapters.

The illustrations should be COLORFUL and reflect or symbolize the story or topic of the chapter where they are included. Use higher-level thinking and creativity. BE NEAT!! Ideas for materials and approaches to use:

- A. Use felt, construction paper, material, or magazine pictures.
 - B. You can draw your own, trace pictures, use computer clip art/images, etc.
 - C. Use objects such as toothpicks, buttons, ribbons, yarn, etc.
 - D. Create a cartoon depicting the story of your chapter.
 - E. Use colors that reflect how you felt in that chapter's story.
 - F. Use creative art mediums such as finger-paints, chalks, water colors, etc.
- VARY YOUR ILLUSTRATIONS! Do not use the same materials or media.

*Photographs may be used as part of the FOUR illustrations ONLY if they are used in a way that reflects your creativity. (For example, cut out a picture of you when you were a baby and glue it on your own picture of a stork flying to your house.)

X. **Legacy PAGE:** A legacy is a gift from the past. What memories do you want others in your future to remember about you, and what will they say? (One page, one optional illustration)

XI. **Conclusion PAGE:** Your conclusion may take any form you wish. Either:

- A. Write a poem or a paragraph that best describes you and your thoughts after finishing the project. What were your feelings about doing your own life story?
- B. Use a copy of one of your favorite poems or songs that somehow reflect you and your approach toward life.

(Option: Since this is a project that will become a keepsake, you may choose to enclose each page in plastic page protectors. It helps from pages becoming wrinkled and torn, etc...)

CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Select a theme _____
- ✓ Use a 3-prong folder.
 - If clear cover on folder, first page should be creative COVER PAGE
 - If not clear cover, use cover of folder as your creative COVER

- COVER PAGE should reflect your theme (collage, wordle, etc.)
- ✓ TITLE PAGE (name, theme, date, illustrations optional)
- ✓ DEDICATION PAGE
- ✓ TABLE OF CONTENTS
- ✓ I AM POEM (already completed; we will reprint)
- ✓ CHAPTERS:
 - At least 6-8 chapters, with Chapter COVER PAGES or labeled Chapter DIVIDERS
 - Each chapter should have an introductory paragraph that ties into your theme!
 - Each chapter should be $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 typed page, 12 font, 1-inch margins'
 - At least 4 illustrations total within your chapters (vary your illustrations)
- ✓ LEGACY PAGE
- ✓ CONCLUSION PAGE