Creative Writing Assignment 1: Memoir

Assignment:
Choose one of the topics listed below or create your own, and write about this particular incident in your life.

Due date:
Friday, Aug. 30th

Paper requirements:
- The paper must be **one full page typed**, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Any writing beyond one page won’t be graded.
- You need to include a title for your paper, so please be creative. The title should **NOT** be underlined or bolded.
- Remember to include the required heading in the upper left-hand corner.
  - Example: Jane Smith  
    Aug. 30, 2013  
    3rd Period, Creative Writing
- You must include all process, including brainstorming activities, any rough drafts and your final copy. (Staple all supportive materials to the back of the final copy.)
- The memoir should use rich language and show understanding of the 6 traits of effective writing (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions,)
- Use your Write Traits Checklist (in your Writer’s Notebook) as your rubric.

Possible topics:

Can you:
- Remember a time when you got in trouble for something you had already been told not to do?
- Remember a time when you broke something that belonged to someone else?
- Remember a trip that you would not want to have to take again?
Can you:
- Remember a party you didn’t want to go on to begin with?
- Remember a time when you got sick at a very inconvenient time?
- Remember a birthday or a holiday you would like (or not like) to live over again?
- Remember a time when you got lost or separated from your family or friends?
- Remember a time when you got locked out of where you needed to be?
- Remember a time when your first impression of someone turned out to be completely wrong?
- Remember a time when you learned something from a child?
- Remember a problem with a haircut?...make-up?...an article of clothing?
- Remember a time when you almost won, but not quite?
- Remember a time when you were tricked or lied to?
- Remember your most embarrassing moment?
- Remember a time when you tried to cook something and it didn’t turn out?

More ideas…

Take us with you:
- When you had to move from one home to another
- To a movie when you were a child
- On a walk around the neighborhood or rural area where you lived as a child
- On a visit to your favorite childhood store
- On a shopping trip with a parent, another family member, or a friend
- On a visit to the doctor’s office
- To summer camp
- Back home for a childhood holiday meal
- To your childhood hiding place or special thinking place

Can you:
- Introduce us to the oldest person you can remember knowing?
- Tell us about a childhood friend whom you have continued to know all of your life?
- Introduce us to a teacher to whom you owe a lot?
- Remember the first person you ever had a crush on?
- Tell us about a person who once had something you wanted?
- Tell us about one of your grandfathers or grandmothers?

Example Format Below
My Trip to California

I was ten years old and had never been to California. In fact, I had never been further west of the Mississippi River when my parents told me, my brother and my sister that we were going on our biggest vacation yet. The plan was to drive there – more than 2,000 miles in all – in my dad’s latest car.