Advanced Reading and Writing  
Mr. Myers

Autobiography Project

**Introducing the project:**

* Give reasons to write autobiography.
* Discuss the format for class times: discuss stories together, sparking memories for each other
* Talk about the option of editing the document that the student submits to the teacher; if the student would rather not share experiences, they don’t have to
* Read excerpts from Mark Twain’s autobiography or some other autobiography

**Overview of Chapters**

* Chapter 1 My Birth
* Chapter 2 My Family
* Chapter 3 Early Childhood
* Chapter 4 School and Church
* Chapter 5 Significant Events and Developments (focus on adolescence and teens) role models, shaping influences, friendships important events
* Chapter 6 Beliefs, Values, Likes and Dislikes (favorite activities, hobbies, pet peeves)
* Chapter 7 Future plans and goals

**Schedule**

* Day 1:
  + Class time: Talk about the format of the document—it will have chapters on various subjects and we’ll make a table of contents once we’re done; it would be good to include pictures with the text-- and have a discussion about baby pictures. *Optional*: Make a timeline of your life, noting major events
  + Assignment: Interview a parent about birth (see file in folder for a better format) Write birth information into smooth paragraph
* Day 2
  + Class time: Check paragraphs about birth and infancy; Hand out the sheet with questions about one’s family
  + Assignment: Complete handout for Chapt. 2: Write 1-2 pages on family using the questions on handout as a prompt
* Day 3
  + Class time: Discuss family chapter

Assignment: Create a family tree starting with you and going back four generations. Use the maiden name for the women in the tree. Include a birthdate and birthplace for each person if possible. (see handout 3) This is to be included in chapter 2.

* Day 4
  + Class time: Look at family trees; have students write their name out with all of the surnames of their great-grandparents in their name—this is who they are; discuss the significance of one’s ancestors and their impact on our lives. Brainstorm memories of early childhood
  + Assignment: Write at least one page of chapter 3 on early childhood.
* Day 5
  + Class time: Continue to brainstorm memories of early childhood
  + Assignment: Write as much more on chapter 3 as possible.
* Day 6
  + Class time: Check Chapt. 3 and discuss
  + Assignment: Write 1-2 pages on Chapt. 4—School and Church
* Day 7
  + Class time:
  + Assignment: Write 1-2 pages on Chapt. 4—School and Church
* Day 8
  + Class time:
  + Assignment: Write 1-2 pages on Chapt. 5—Significant Events and Developments
* Day 9
  + Class time:
  + Assignment: Write 1-2 pages on Chapt. 5—Significant Events and Developments
* Day 10
  + Class time:
  + Assignment: Write 1-2 pages on Chapt. 6—Who are you?
* Day 11
  + Class time:
  + Assignment: Write 1-2 pages on Chapt. 6—Who are you?
* Day 12
  + Class time:
  + Assignment: Write 1-2 pages on Chapt. 7—Looking Forward and prepare a complete copy of the first draft to hand in
* Day 13-19
  + Class time:
  + Assignment: Prepare title page and table of contents; Each day assign 1 or 2 chapters for re-writing, editing, revising, and illustrating
* Day 20
  + Class time: Final paper due (Provide folder for students to use)
  + Assignment: Prepare a 3-5 minutes of stories from your life to share orally with the class