SENIOR MEMORY BOOK
(Do Not Lose This Packet...You Will Need It All Year Long!)

THE ASSIGNMENT
During this class you will write a book...a Senior Memory Book. It will consist of your memories and thoughts from your whole life.

1. Due dates will be announced as the year progresses.

2. We will pre-write, write, revise, and then write or type the second draft. This draft will need to be revised before turning in your final draft in your book at the end of the year.

3. The final product will be presented in a three ring binder. Whether you need a 1/2 inch or a two inch binder will depend upon how much you put into this memory book. You may also buy clear plastic sheets to protect each chapter.

4. Add chapter covers, pictures, artwork, etc. to personalize your book. This book is all about you...and you should love it when you're finished.

5. How long should each chapter be? Some chapters will be longer than others. You will be graded on the time and effort put into each chapter as well as on the quality of your writing. Every chapter, however, is expected to be at least one page typed, 12 font, double-spaced.

6. Each chapter will focus on a different writing trait: voice, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, details, and conventions. Every chapter will focus on presentation. You will receive a rubric for and more information about each of these traits as the year progresses and eventually will be very familiar with them.

Your Senior Memory Book must include the following elements:

COVER—Your cover is the illustrated introduction of you! You may use any media (paint, construction paper, cloth, chalk, felt, etc.) Your cover should be colorful and clever. Your title should say something about you. Neatly arrange letters. We will work on this towards the end of the year.
DEDICATION—Put it in the MIDDLE OF THE PAGE. Dedicate all your work, effort, time, and love to someone special in your life and explain why you are doing so.

“I dedicate my autobiography to….because...”

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PREFACE—Introduce yourself.
Why are you writing this? Tell who you are. This is the NOW in your life. Whatever you write must be true.

TRAIT FOCUS: VOICE

CHAPTER 1—“IS THIS REALLY ME????”
Research yourself and your family. Where and when you were born, your parents’ full names, where you first lived, your brothers and sisters, influential extended family, etc.
TRAIT FOCUS: CONVENTIONS/EMPHASIS ON CAPITALIZATION

CHAPTER 2—“WHO, ME?”
Write at two stories of your younger days.

It is doubtful that you will remember those embarrassing, cute, or serious events from your life. Obtain the information from your parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, etc. Your anecdotes must flow/make a transition from one to another.

TRAIT FOCUS: WORD CHOICE

CHAPTER 3—“SCHOOL BELLS”—Kindergarten through fifth grade.

Do you remember your first day of school? If not, your parents will. How did you feel? Through each grade recall and write about your positive impressions, special events, your special achievements, humorous incidents, awards, successes, and teachers. Be honest, objective, and fair.

TRAIT FOCUS: ORGANIZATION
CHAPTER 4—“HOBBIES, SPORTS, SPECIAL INTERESTS”
We all have some time on our hands. How do you fill that time? What do you enjoy doing? How did your interest develop? Do you remember the first time you tried it?
Choice #1-Essay Choice #2-10 Fascinating Facts about your hobby Choice #3-Write a “How-to” Guide about your hobby

CHAPTER 5—“I GREW UP HERE”
Describe your town, neighborhood, and community. SHOW the reader where you are from. Move beyond the obvious and go deeper. What about your surroundings made you, you? If you have moved, describe the places you have lived.

CHAPTER 6—“GROWING, MATURING, AND BEING IN MY FAMILY”
Write about your family. A simple introduction of each family member isn’t enough. Choose one or two family members and go in-depth. Help the reader see who that person truly is. What has that person taught you? What have you witnessed about his or her life? What does he or she do, say, live? Go beyond basic descriptions.

CHAPTER 7—BIOGRAPHICAL POEM
Write a poem of ten or more lines about yourself.

CHAPTER 8—“WHO WILL I BECOME?”
Create a bucket list of at least fifty things you want to accomplish in your life.

CHAPTER 9—“MORE SCHOOL BELLS”—Middle School
Remember what a change these years were? Include your opinions, impressions, accomplishments, awards, funny stories, field trips, school events, etc.

CHAPTER 10—“HIGH SCHOOL: THE EARLY YEARS”
Write about your freshman, sophomore, and junior years in high school: highlights, troubles, successes, heartbreaks, friends, teachers, coaches.
CHAPTER 11—“A SPECIAL EVENT IN YOUR LIFE”
Describe one event in detail: a vacation, a death, visits, holidays, etc. Describe what you did, but more importantly, how you felt or what you learned.
FOCUS: USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

CHAPTER 12—“PERSONAL OPINION ESSAY”
Write a rant stating your opinion of things...the way you see it. CHOOSE ONE TOPIC. You may “sound off” about government, law, a pet peeve, pollution, injustice anywhere, etc. Give your reasons why. Take a stand. The catch? You must be as concise as possible using exact word choice. You may only use 150 words or less.
TRAIT FOCUS: WORD CHOICE/DENOTATION AND CONNOTATION

CHAPTER 13—CHAPTER OF CHOICE
Your options are wide open for this chapter, as long as they are school-appropriate. Please run your ideas by me first.
TRAIT FOCUS: VOICE, WORD CHOICE, SENTENCE FLUENCY, CONTENT, ORGANIZATION, CONVENTIONS

CHAPTER 14—“AT LAST, I’M A SENIOR”
Write about your senior year, highlighting your most memorable moments.
OR
Create a time capsule for your senior year. How much was a gallon of gasoline? Bread? What were the popular television shows? Movies? Singers? Come up with at least twenty items to include in your capsule. Get creative! YOU MUST CITE YOUR SOURCES.
TRAIT FOCUS: CONTENT

EPILOGUE—“IF I COULD LIVE MY LIFE ALL OVER AGAIN, I WOULD....”
WRITE A PARAGRAPH EXPLAINING EITHER WHAT YOU WOULD DO OR WOULD NOT DO DIFFERENTLY AND EXPLAIN YOUR REASONING.