**Personal Memoir**

**Purpose**

To tell about an event or series of events, a memory.

**Organization**

The structure is based on the passage of time and a sequence of events.

**BEGINNING:** Provides the reader with any necessary information about who, what, when, where, why

**MIDDLE:** Outlines an event or series of events presented in chronological order

**END:** May provide a summary or personal reaction

**Language Features**

* Generally told in the past tense
* Often told in the first person
* Has many action verbs
* Features specific characters who participated in the event
* Uses transition words to give indication of time or order
* Evokes the five senses through description
* Reveals feelings of the author
* May use dialogue to reveal characters and move the story along

**Forms**

Diary, **personal memoir of an event**, autobiography, newspaper article, biographical sketch, story, picture book, Web site or PowerPoint presentation

**Identifying 5Ws in Personal Memoirs**

Memoir Sample 1:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Who | What  | When | Where | Why |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Memoir Sample 2:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Who | What  | When | Where | Why |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Memoir Sample 3:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Who | What  | When | Where | Why |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |