

Paper 1: Memoir

English W131

Instructor: Ryan P. Shepherd

- **Assignment:**
 - Recall a single event or closely related series of events that has had a significant impact on your life.
 - Use this event to expand out and explore its greater significance to your own life.
 - Because the event should have this significance, the event should be *more than five years ago*. Recent events' significance may not yet be fully realized and may be muddled by recent emotional involvement.
 - Attempt to involve your reader with the use of sensory information (sights, sounds, smells) and detail.
- **Purpose:** To explore writing ability in a more familiar medium, to familiarize students with creative writing, and to allow your group members (and me) to get to know you better. The goal of this paper is to help you become more comfortable with writing college papers in general and to ease you into later assignments.
- **Requirements:**
 - FOUR to SIX typed pages formatted according the guidelines of the syllabus.
 - The audience is people who would care to hear your story, namely family and friends. Voice, tone, and style may be very relaxed and informal.
 - Minimal outside research may be appropriate but is not required. You may consider consulting an old photo album, asking for information from others involved in the event, or revisiting settings of your story.
- **Grading Criteria:**
 - Concentration on a single main idea
 - Use of relevant sensory data
 - Appropriate use of detail
 - Clear significance to writer's life
 - Creativity in storytelling
 - Innovative or interesting narration.
 - Keeps reader's attention
 - Draws reader in with appropriate introduction
- **Due Dates:**
 - **January 22:** Draft one due for instructor commentary
 - **February 5:** Draft two due for peer review
 - Final draft due in portfolio