

Memoir Checklist

Overall	I wrote an idea about my life and wrote the story of one or more times to show how that idea is true	
Lead	My text has a beginning that introduces an idea about my life. The beginning might foreshadow what the memoir will be about, or may state my idea clearly	
Transitions	I used transitional Phrases in two ways: 1. To connect examples and life stories to the idea I have about my life (for instance, one reason, but the most important reason, an example, consequently, specifically). 2. To show the passage of time within the small moments I tell I might show things happening at the same time (meanwhile, at the same time) or flashback and flash-forward (early that morning or three hours later	
Ending	I wrote a conclusion that connects back to what the memoir is mainly about. I may have ended with reflection, restating my idea or coming to a new realization. I also might have ended with story with the character saying, doing, or realizing something that connects back to the main message of the piece and leaves the reader with a sense of closure or understanding'	
Organization	I used paragraphs to separate different parts of my memoir. A few places I may have used new paragraphs are: 1. When I move from reflection to story or from story back to reflection 2. While storytelling, when a new person is speaking, there is a new time or place or to highlight a part of the story that is particularly important	
Elaboration	I included evidence and examples (examples, quotations, micro-stories, lists) to support my idea. When writing micro-stories, I developed characters, setting, and plot using a blend of description, action, dialogue and thinking. I only included details that support my idea. I discussed/unpacked the way that the evidence/micro-stories go with my idea.	
Craft	I made deliberate word choices to have an effect on my reader. I reached for the precisely right phrase, metaphor or image that would convey my ideas. I made choices about how to angle my micro-stories to support my idea. I may have done this by showing why characters do what they do, slowing down the heart of the story shortening less important parts, or using precise details so the readers can picture the setting, people, and events	
Spelling	I used what I know about word patterns and spelling rules to spell correctly. I used the word wall and other references to help me spell words when needed'	
Punctuation	I used commas to set off introductory Parts of sentences (for example, I remember the time when). I also used commas to show talking directly to someone (Are You mad, Mom?) I used a variety of Punctuation to fix any run-on sentences	
Color	I varied my sentences to create the pace and tone of the different sections of my Piece. I blended storytelling and summary as needed. I used some objects or actions as symbols to bring forth my meaning	