

# Chapter One: My Heritage

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Autobiography Assignment, Room 204

The word count for chapter one of the autobiography should be a minimum of 500 words for full credit. Please use complete sentences with proper grammar and spelling. Chapter one is worth 20 points (10 for completing minimum word count, three for grammar, three for spelling, one for name, one for chapter title, and two for chapter table of contents.

Write the first chapter of your autobiography by:

- 1) brainstorming ideas for the contents of chapter one (your ancestry or heritage). You can do this by simply writing ideas down on a piece of paper, by making categories using post-it notes or 3x5 cards, or by some other method.
- 2) Once you have generated sufficient ideas for the chapter you will organize those ideas into a rough Table of Contents for the chapter (see example below).
- 3) Generate questions to ask family members and then interview them
- 4) Write responses and other ideas into your chapter
- 5) Edit, revise, and submit (share to Mr. C.)

## EXAMPLE TABLE OF CONTENTS

(so don't include these in your chapter outline, it's just to generate ideas)

**Chapter Title:** (sample) "People who are related to me who lived before me"

### Chapter Contents:

Preface

Really old people

Family tree reaching back at least four generations

Stories about pioneers (people who were the first in their families to do certain things)

Characteristics/attributes of several people in the family (themes)

Kind of old people

Short stories/summaries for each of my four grandparents

A little bit old people

Information about my parents, focusing on the time right before I was born

Their childhoods

How they met

Where they lived, etc.

The outline for your first chapter should focus on your family heritage and ancestry. Usually chapters have at least three main ideas, which is the minimum allowed for this assignment. More often a book chapter will have 10-15 main ideas as well as 3-4 sub-categories within those bigger categories. Once you have decided upon three or more main ideas and added them to your table of contents, go ahead and write what you already know about those topics. If you don't know anything then use your time to generate a list of questions you can ask your parents, grandparents, or others about your family. The reverse side of this document has some sample questions you are welcome to use in learning about your family. You may also generate as many of your own questions as you like.

