

# Chapter Two: Childhood

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

## Assignment Description

While the first chapter of your autobiography focused on other people (your ancestors), this chapter (two) starts to delve into your own life and experiences. This chapter focuses on your “childhood”, which I am defining as anything between birth and preschool (probably age 5-6). If you, like me, can’t remember much (or anything) about your childhood you may have to talk to others (e.g. parents, grandparents) to see what they remember about you during this period of your life (see tips for suggestions of questions to ask).

## Grading Criteria (20 points)

- This chapter should be a minimum of 500 words (10 points)
- Use proper grammar (three points)
- Use correct spelling (three points)
- Include a chapter title (one point)
- Include your name (one point)
- Include your word count next to your name (one point)
- Place the chapter at the top of your autobiography document (one point)

## Strategies for Brainstorming and Writing

*Brainstorming.* Like all writing assignments (and writing in the real world) you will benefit by engaging in “prewriting” or “brainstorming” before you complete your first draft. I recommend that you pull out a piece of paper and simply write down EVERYTHING you can remember about your childhood. What stands out? What were you like? What memories do you have?

*Talk to others.* You may or may not remember much about your childhood. Regardless of that, you could benefit greatly from asking others what they remember about your childhood. Take another piece of paper and ask parents and others what they remember about you as a baby and as a toddler. What were you like? How did you spend your time? What things, movies, foods, were you obsessed with? Were there any funny things that you said or did?

*First draft.* Once you have plenty of ideas and notes you need to start your first draft. You can choose to write sequentially or by theme/idea. If you go sequentially you’ll start by writing about your own birth (you’ll probably need to get the details from others), and then move on to what others remember about you as a baby. Then move on to your earliest memories and/or what others remember about you as a toddler. Conclude with whatever you remember just prior to starting school.

*Proofreading and editing.* Once you have completed your first draft you should go back over your writing to spot errors (grammar, spelling, choppy sentences). I have found that it helps to read aloud the first draft—you’ll find that you catch a lot more when you actually hear it. You might even read it aloud to someone else because then not only will you catch errors but so will they, and they might have additional details you can add into the document.

*Final draft.* After reading, proofreading and editing your chapter you’ll want to add any additional details you remember and then publish the chapter to your google document. Remember to put it at the top and to include your word count.

See an example of this assignment [here](#).