

English 1

Autobiographical Incident Essay
"Developing a Sense of Self"

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Overview: As shown by the beautiful "Chapter Titles" hanging all over our room, we each have significant events or "chapters" that make up our lives and have helped shape who we are becoming. An *autobiographical incident* paper is one in which you tell the story of *one* of those important memories, lessons or events. Like other narratives, it includes characters, a series of related events (plot) and a setting. Beyond just explaining what happened, however, an autobiographical incident paper also *reflects* on what the incident meant to you then and what it means to you now. (In other words, **WHY** is this memory worth writing about? What happened to you, your life and/or your sense of self as a result of it?)

Writing directions: Choose ONE of your "Chapter Titles" and tell the story behind it. The memory or event you write about should be very specific—DO NOT try to tell the story of your whole life in this paper. Your essay should have an interesting beginning that grabs the reader's attention, and a clear conclusion which directly states (or clearly implies) the significance of this event in your life *and* in shaping your sense of identity. Your essay should also put the incident in context—that is, include when and where the event took place and exactly what happened. Include sensory details, "show not tell," and dialogue so that your reader can really picture the scenes and situations you are describing.

We will go through a fairly long drafting process for this essay, which means that you will work step by step on your own and in groups to revise and improve your paper. I grade on the process, the improvement *and* the overall product. (This means you need to save everything to get full credit for the process!☺)

Autobiographical Incident Essay Check List:

_____	Final Draft	(25 points)
_____	Revision Strategies	(5 points)
_____	Peer Evaluation	(5 points)
_____	Rough Draft	(10 points)
_____	Cluster Chart	(5 points)

Due dates:

Rough draft: _____

Final draft and process packet: _____