



LA IMMACULADA CONCEPCION SCHOOL

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

GRADE 12 – CREATIVE NONFICTION

APRIL 21, 2020

Topic: Forms and Types of Creative Nonfiction

Subtopic: Biography and Autobiography

OVERVIEW

1. A biography is a kind of narrative that deals with the life of a person. Classical biographies are about the lives of popular figures like national heroes or celebrities.
2. An autobiography is a kind of biography that centers on the life of the writer himself/herself. It is derived from the Greek words **autos** (self), **bios** (life), and **graph** (to write).
3. Literally, an autobiography is a form of writing that is about the writer's life from birth to the present.
4. Autobiography does not simply list down events. It also uses literary devices and strategies to make one's life story interesting. The writer may choose the details that he/she wishes to include, particularly those that are not only memorable but also worth sharing with others.
5. Autobiography deals with a chain of events and covers a longer period of time. Information such as dates and places are important.
6. To write autobiography is to publicly share one's life, but some write autobiography to right public perception about them.

ACTIVITY 1

A. Recall episodes in your life that are worth sharing and which you may include in your autobiography.

B. Use the sample table below to indicate dates, places, and other details.

Date	Place	Event
October 2017	Universal Studio	My 15 th birthday celebration

ACTIVITY 2

Based on the output, write a three-paragraph passage of life from elementary, junior high school, and present life.

Reference: Creative Nonfiction: A Textbook on Humanities and Social Sciences page 91

Creative Nonfiction pages 99



APRIL 22, 2020

Topic: Elements of Creative Nonfiction
Subtopic: Memoirs

OVERVIEW

Life stories look at who we are as humans and the life we have lived. It can be written in different ways like memoirs, biography, and autobiography.

1. Memoir is a collection of the writer's memories. It consists of details in the past that took place in both the writer's public and private life. It recounts what happened in the past and what it means to you "now".
2. Memoir is the French word for "memory". In a memoir, you become the narrator, the main character and the central force of the life story.
3. While biography and autobiography cover the whole life of an individual, memoirs focus on a significant event of a person's life. It acts as a collection of memories that one has during a specific period of his life.
4. In a memoir, you assume the first- person point of view, but can be written by someone else.

TYPES OF MEMOIRS

1. Personal Memoirs
A personal memoir focuses only on a certain period or event of the writer's own life. As a writer, you get to choose which memory to write about.
2. Professional Memoirs
A professional memoir is written to tell about one's professional life or career. It is created to keep a record of historical events.
3. Public Memoirs
A public memoir aims to let the readers know more about who the writer really is, aside from what is being shown to them in public.
4. Travel Memoirs
A travel memoir expresses the writer's feelings and experiences while traveling. Although it provides details of the personal adventures of the writer, it is still different from that of travel blogs. A travel memoir is where you can read about the writer's challenges while traveling, as well as how he/she is able to overcome those challenges.

Directions: Read the sample memoir below and explain the given elements according to the selection.

MY EXPERIENCE OF BEING UNEMPLOYED

One of the harshest periods of my life was when I lost a longtime job. It is alarming how casually it sounds: "I've lost my job." Thousands of people lose their jobs every day; even the most developed economies of the world are not guaranteed from mass unemployment. But at the same time, having no source of income for a long period of time is a real tragedy for those who face dismissal times. Before losing a job, I used to think that unemployment is more about bad luck and an unwillingness to make an effort; now, as I have experienced it myself, I cannot be so negligent and callous about unemployed people.

It all started in 2004, when our company started to reduce staff. We all knew the insurance company we worked for was not as good and profitable as it used to be before the new CEO came. I guess each of us in our hearts knew everything was breaking into pieces, especially considering the global economic crisis; still, no one left on their own, expecting for better. The next several months were like playing Russian roulette: each morning I went to work guessing who else got fired. One day, I entered my office and found out the one who was getting fired that week was me.

I was not shocked—as I said, we all knew what to expect. But I can remember the feeling I had back then: my life slowly rolled into an abyss, and I was standing aside watching it. As I woke up the next morning, I had a chimerical feeling: the whole world around me had to go to work, and I was free as a bird. I got out of bed, made a cup of coffee, and spent the whole day looking at the window and doing little else.

One thing I never did was take loans from a bank, except perhaps a student loan, which I paid off a few years ago. So, things were not all that bad for me: I did not lose a place to live in, and I did not have to deal with debt collectors. My situation was comfortable compared to some of my acquaintances, who were literally thrown out from their homes. All I needed to worry about were the utilities, and the daily bread. But, despite that, I was knocked out of the rut, and I decided to give myself a break and have a one-week rest to figure out how to move on. Now I think that I probably made that decision due to the shock, but back then it seemed reasonable. Anyways, it all turned out for the better.

During that week, I did almost nothing to change my situation, except trying to renew my old contacts from those carefree times when I worked as a freelance translator; beyond this, I remained a passive unemployed loser. Soon enough, I received an urgent order from an old business contact. Then another one. Then I was contacted by a few more people who needed my services. Slowly but surely my translator reputation recovered. And though this temporary part-time job could not endow me long, it gave me chances to make ends meet while job hunting.

During my misfortunes, I got acquainted with a guy from Japan. He needed a long chapter of his novel translated into English really quick, and I accepted his order. We worked together for a while, and we gradually became good friends. He was unemployed as well, and earned his living by publishing short novels in little-known literary magazines. We talked a lot, and I was surprised to know there was no big difference between the United States and Japan in terms of employment, the capitalist reality, and all that corporate stuff we both hated. I always thought the Japanese were zealous about working, but it turned out there was a whole generation of people in Japan who did not wish to work for big companies and to lead predefined lives.

That pen-pal of mine, Takeo, supported me a lot, as well as I supported him. He inspired me to seek for opportunities different from just wandering from one identical company to another. I started to look at the world from another perspective; I quit thinking that “the man is for work, not the work for the man.” I also figured out what I truly wanted, and, perhaps, for the first time in my life I felt inspired about trying to achieve my goals.

1. The central theme of the article
2. The use of facts or evidence in support of theme or argument
3. Your emotional reaction while reading
4. Language used and its appropriateness to the genre of memoir
5. Questions formed in your mind while reading

Reference: Creative Nonfiction pages 95, 155

<https://academichelp.net/samples/creative-writing-samples/memoir-samples/job-loss.html>