

Autobiography

LANGUAGE ARTS



Overview

Students create an animated autobiography sharing their own life story, developing self-reflection skills and narrative voice while practicing memoir writing.

Steps for Teachers

1. Discuss what makes a good autobiography; read examples together
2. Students create a timeline of important events in their lives
3. Students select 4-6 key moments to include in their video
4. Students write a script sharing these moments and what they learned
5. Students take a photo of themselves to use as the main character
6. Students record their autobiography with backgrounds matching their memories
7. Create a class 'autobiography anthology' to celebrate each student's story

Example

A student shares: 'I was born in a small town, but moved to the city when I was 5. The scariest day was my first day at my new school—I didn't know anyone. But then Maria shared her crayons with me, and we've been best friends ever since. Last year, I learned to ride a bike without training wheels. I fell a lot, but my dad kept saying, "You can do it!" Now I ride everywhere. These moments taught me that scary things often become good things.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Personal Reflection	Deep insights about experiences and personal growth	Shows some reflection on experiences	Lists events without reflection or meaning
Narrative Voice	Authentic, engaging voice that sounds like the student	Voice is present but could be more distinctive	Generic voice; doesn't sound personal
Event Selection	Chosen events are meaningful and well-connected	Events are appropriate but connections could be stronger	Events seem random or unimportant
Storytelling	Engaging narrative with vivid details and emotions	Clear narrative with some engaging elements	Flat telling without engaging details