**Writing Assignment #1 English 10**

**Project Summary**

In 1999, *The Washington Post*, a major newspaper in Washington DC, offered its readers a chance at immortality: the chance to be published in their newspaper and to have their published piece placed in a time capsule. Since, at that time, the world was closing out the second millennium, the newspaper wanted to capture answers to the question: Who are we? They gave readers just 100 words to capture their “autobiographies”. *Reader’s Digest* also has a current 100 word story competition which you can enter. They state that everyone has a story to tell.

Like the *Washington Post* and *Reader’s Digest* assignments, you will reflect on who you are, now, at the start of grade 10.

**Purpose**

You are writing to inform and entertain others about your life. You can write about whatever it is you feel best describes who you are. You can be serious, sad, or funny. You can talk about your family, your job, your fears, or your hopes. You can write of your entire life or of a single defining moment. The only requirement is that your story *must* be true. It must also be a story.

**Writer’s Role**

You are writing as yourself. While many of you will naturally write using 1st person point of view, 2nd, or 3rd person is also acceptable.

**Audience**

You are writing for yourself, but keep in mind that this piece will be shared within our classroom community. You might even choose to send it in to *Reader’s Digest*.

**Form**

This piece is called a vignette – which for this assignment is a picture or snapshot of who you are. A vignette is like a very short story. This vignette has just 100 words or fewer. It has a small plot.

**Focus Correction Areas**

**Copy the three FCAs on the top left hand side of your draft. They will help focus you on the grading criteria as you write.**

1. 100 words or less – 10 points

2. Ample use of imagery – 20 points

3. Specific, not vague words (i.e.: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) – 20 points

You must also complete this assignment according to the requirements and it must be legible.

**Procedure**

1. Read example vignettes as a whole class. Determine what the message is for each vignette both as a class and in small groups.

2. Listen to how your teacher brainstormed for her vignette. Then, listen to her 100 word piece.

3. Brainstorm ideas about who you are and what defines you. Select idea(s) that are the most important to you or that you most want to explore. Remember: write only about what you want.

4. Watch the presentation on imagery and specific word choice.

5. Draft your vignette, double spacing as you write. **This is mandatory**.

6. Draft assignment due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. Highlight for the second 2 FCAs on prior example. Then, read aloud and highlight your use of imagery and specific word choice in your vignette. Revise your work for the FCAs as you read aloud.

8. Share vignette with peer and make further revisions based on FCAs. Please ensure that grammatical and mechanical errors do not interfere with understanding.

9. Rewrite vignette and be ready to share it with the class on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** | **Revise!**  |
| 100 words or fewer! You still stick to the vignette form of telling a brief story.**10 points** | 100 words or fewer. You don’t really tell a story.**8 points** | More than 100 words! You did tell a story**7 points** | More than 100 words! You don’t really tell a story.**6 points** | You have a lot more than 100 words. You’re above 150 words. The form doesn’t fit a vignette either.**5 points** |
| IMAGERY!I can definitely put myself into your vignette with you. Lots of sensory details.**20 points** | Imagery!You make a solid attempt to include sensory details, but I don’t quite feel like I’m there with you yet. Maybe include more than one or two senses?**18 points** | Imagery?Well, you seem to attempt at using imagery, but you don’t have a solid grasp yet. Try describing one part of what you included and show us what it would be like to be with you.**15 points** | Imagery : (You tell us more than show us. I can’t even see what you’re saying.**12 points** | Imagery!!!!You forgot to show us! Check out the links for improving imagery on the PowerPoint from August 28/Sept.2 **10 points** |
| Each word is specifically and effectively used. This is some powerful writing.**20 points** | You do choose your words well throughout a majority of the piece. A couple places need some substitution.**18 points** | You have a couple powerful and specific words in your vignette, but overall you need to revise for better word choices.**15 points** | Your words are mainly ordinary and vague. You want to revise to avoid clichés and to use powerful descriptive words.**12 points** | Well, you have words on the paper, but there aren’t a lot of good, vivid, specific words. You might want to revisit the links for improving word choice.**10 points.** |

Any piece with significant or severe spelling, grammatical, or mechanical errors will be an automatic revise with a grade of 25/50 until the revision occurs. (If I can’t read it or understand what you wrote, you get a 50% until you revise it so I can read it)

Total points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50 x 2 = 100