

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter One: Before I Was Born

### **Necessary: Writing the Essay (final draft typed)**

Write this title, bold and center it, and capitalize it as shown: **Chapter One: Before I Was Born**. Then skip a line and begin the rest of your essay.

**For the introduction, write the following:** *Who I am today depends a lot upon the people who came before me. Information from my past that leads up to my birth includes stories about school from my \_\_\_\_\_'s point of view, family traditions that run through the generations, and an item that has been passed down from generation to generation.*

**For paragraph two, begin with this line:** *School has changed much over the years. My \_\_\_\_\_'s school years were very different from mine.* Write this paragraph based on the interview you did with a relative. Make sure you include information based on the five questions you asked them about their school life.

**For paragraph three, begin with this line:** *A family tradition that has been passed down through the generations is \_\_\_\_\_.* Now, describe this tradition. How did it start? What does it involve? Explain it.

**For paragraph four, begin with this line:** *A family heirloom that has been passed down from generation to generation is \_\_\_\_\_.* Now, describe this item. Perhaps it is a shawl, a quilt, a piece of jewelry, a watch, a baptismal gown, a piece of furniture, etc. What stories do you know about this item? Who originally owned or made it? (If you do not have a family heirloom, choose something to begin one and describe it. \*Remember to change the topic sentence then.)

**For the conclusion, summarize** what you discussed in the above paragraphs. Also, tell what you learned or discovered about yourself. Remember to avoid using the phrases such as, "I have told you about", "Now you know", etc. This reminder applies to **all** conclusions for **all** essays in this autobiography.

### **Necessary: Grandparent Photograph**

Include a photograph of at least one grandparent, preferably a current photo. You can include more than one photo. In fact, it would be nice if you included photographs of all of your grandparents, if possible. These photographs should be put on a separate sheet of paper, following the essay, and they should be identified. "Identified" means that underneath the photo you write the place where the photo was taken and the date when it was taken (as close as you can come to the place and date). The person or people should also be identified by their full names (first and last). It is okay if other

people appear in the photo. (Include extra photos, if you like. They will enhance the chapter.)

It may be difficult for you to get a family photo that is complete and that you will be allowed to keep as a permanent part of this autobiography. For these reasons, this is a flexible requirement. It will be okay if you include separate photos of grandparents rather than one group photo. It will also be okay if the photo is not current or if some of the separate photos are not current. It is also acceptable to photocopy a picture. Do the best you can with regard to the photo. If you cannot get a photo of a grandparent, ask one of your parents to sign a note to that effect. Attach the note to the photo page. A signed note from a parent will excuse you from this requirement. If the photo is missing and no note is attached, you will not be given credit for this part of the assignment.

### **Extras for Chapter One:**

#### **\* A Family Recipe**

Type or hand write (in blue/black pen) this recipe on a separate sheet of paper or recipe card so that it is a permanent part of your autobiography. Include several, if you like. \*\*You may not duplicate recipes in your autobiography.

#### **\* My Family Tree**

Trace your family tree as far back as you can go by doing your own family tree research. If you already have a family tree, try to be creative and come up with your own. Remember, it needs to somehow fit into the autobiography binder.

#### **\* Comments From a Relative**

Ask any relative outside of your immediate family to write comments to you to include in your autobiography. The comments can take whatever form the writer wishes. They can be advice to you, a statement about you, some thoughts to be passed on, and so forth.

#### **\* Photograph of the Family Heirloom**

You may include a picture of the heirloom that you wrote about in paragraph four of your essay.

# Autobiography Parent/Guardian Check List for Chapter One

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Students: This paper is worth up to 25 points. In order for you to achieve the maximum amount of points, you must have the yes column checked in all categories, have a well-written paper, have parent/guardian sign and date it, and turn it in on time.

Parent/Guardian: Please check the appropriate line for each of the following statements listed below.

	Yes	No
1) Did your student copy paragraph one word for word?	_____	_____
2) Did your student clearly identify the relative s/he interviewed for paragraph 2?	_____	_____
3) For paragraph 3, did your student state and explain a family tradition that has been passed down? If there is no family tradition, did s/he create one to be started as an adult?	_____	_____
4) In paragraph 4, was a detailed description given of a family heirloom? If there is no family heirloom, has your student written about one to be handed down as an adult?	_____	_____
5) Without using the words "in summary" or "in conclusion" did your student write a summary of his/her paper? Please keep in mind that nothing new should be placed into the conclusion. The conclusion should be at least 3 sentences in length.	_____	_____
6) In paragraphs 2.3.4, did your student have at least 8 well-developed sentences? (Keep in mind that details are great in this project!)	_____	_____

Parents/Guardians: Please sign and date below to verify that you have read over and discussed this 5-paragraph paper with your student..

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date