

Who am I?

Your life is unique.

There are literal billions of people on this earth, but none of them are you. None were, or will be you.

This is your chance to tell your story.

What makes you... you?

Structural Requirements:

- 11-12pt font
- Double-spaced
- Standard font (Calibri, Arial, Times New Roman...)
- 1 inch margins
- 75 pages (minimum) at Graduation (no one's stopping you from writing more!)

9th	10
10th	25
11th	25
12th	15

Class of 2019 20 pages total.

Where to go for help:

Your advisors are always happy to read, offer suggestions or help you develop ideas.

Your peers can also be very helpful to bounce ideas, read, suggest edits, etc.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Write-an-Autobiography>

<https://custom-writing.org/blog/writing-an-autobiography>

<https://nanowrimo.org/>

Writing an Autobiography/Memoir:

Think of this as a series of small moments; scenes that stick out in your mind. These scenes have formed you into the person you are and the person you will become. Sometimes a small event can have a big or lasting impact on you, so don't discredit something that comes to mind just because it wasn't "major."

Each story is a chapter. Chapters should have a title and date, as well as a clear setting.

You should focus on writing from the current school year. (No one's stopping you from editing past years' work, but you're only accountable for what you're doing this year!)

Think of this as an ongoing journal that you work on each week. If you treat it as a single, huge assignment, it can be overwhelming.

It's very common to not know where to begin. Writing about yourself and your perspective can be difficult. Try exploring each of these topics first.

This is not a checklist, but rather a list of prompts to help fuel your creativity. As you begin to write, you may decide to tweak a prompt to fit your story; that's fine.

There is no requirement that each topic be covered evenly, but each should be covered.

Please repeat topics as necessary. Do you have three influential people you want to write about? Have a Chapter 6a, 6b, and 6c! This is your story, so feel free to nudge these guidelines to fit your needs.

A picture is worth a thousand words, or so they say. Any photos, drawings, mementos or other artifacts are strongly encouraged! (That said, they won't count toward page requirements.)

As you write a few chapters, look for common themes that tie your overall story together and explore!

You may decide to take your stories and lay them out chronologically or some other way; go for it!

Your stories are just that: yours. They can be lighthearted, terrifying, deep, comical, depressing, hopeful, savage... it's your call!

What matters most is that you tell your story.

Topic/Chapter 1: Background

- Hobbies, loves, skills... talk about yourself!
- What you know (or don't know) about your roots or family tree
- How your background influences your vision ... your outlook on life
- A strong relationship with a family member (good or bad)
- Lessons learned from your family
- A powerful family memory
- How your home life has affected who you are today

Topic/Chapter 2: Growing Up

- Something from your childhood (big or small) that helped you become who you are today
- An obstacle you overcame as a child, or one you are still trying to overcome
- A life lesson you learned early on
- How you were treated or perceived as a child
- A mentor, an idol, a friend (an enemy?) who influenced your childhood and how
- How you've changed (or not changed) since childhood
- Something you'd –like– to change about your childhood (and why)
- Funny or amusing stories from your childhood

Topic/Chapter 3: Friends

- How to be a good friend
- Someone who is/was a good or bad friend to you
- A time you were a good or bad friend to someone you care about
- An experience you've had with a friend or friends that brought you closer together
- A friend that you didn't expect to make
- How your relationship with a friend changed over time
- Things you've learned from your friends
- Something a friend taught you about yourself

Topic/Chapter 4: Forks in the Road

- An event that changed the way you see the world
- A chance occurrence that changed your life
- A memory forever etched in your brain
- A door that was opened for you or closed on you
- How a change you made affected those around you

Topic/Chapter 5: School

- A turning point in your education
- Someone who helped you improve as a student or shaped your view about school
- A funny or profound field trip moment
- How you have changed as a student over time
- A pivotal or emotional high school moment
- A time you felt you belonged or a time you were excluded
- How middle school and high school are different or alike
- The proudest you've ever been in a classroom
- How HBHS has affected your high school experience and growth as a person
- Advice to your 8th Grade self

Topic/Chapter 6: Influential People

- Someone who has changed your life
- How you met
- What they said or did that captivated you
- Their role in your life
- Their influence on you, your outlook, or how you interact with others
- How you emulate this person
- What they taught you (intentionally or not)

Topic/Chapter 7: Passion

- What drives you?
- How you developed and nurtured your passion
- Where your passion has led you
- Your relationship with your passion and how it's changed
- How your passion has shaped you

Topic/Chapter 8: Vision

- Talk about yourself 10 years from now: home, job, life...
- Which goals you have met, which you haven't, and what goals you'll be making then
- Hopes and fears for the world
- Your contribution to the future
- What you most look forward to or dread

Topic/Chapter 9: Philosophy

- How you tell right from wrong
- Your moral code
- Your own strengths and weaknesses
- How you treat a stranger, a friend, or an enemy
- The meaning of life or your purpose in life
- What your journey has taught you
- Advice for people trying to find themselves

Topic/Chapter 10: Prologue/Epilogue

This one's a bit different. After you've written and ordered all your chapters, there's one last step. Give your story an introduction and conclusion to tie it all together. The goal is to make this one, cohesive work.