

## Suggested Organization Structure (Thematic)

\*Provided is a template if you choose to organize thematically. If that doesn't work for you, you could choose to organize it chronologically.

### Chapter 1: Family & Childhood

Topics you might consider:

- How something may have happened in your childhood to impact the person you are today
- An obstacle you had to overcome as a child
- A valuable learning experience
- How other people treated you or perceived you as a child
- A person who was in your life during childhood that impacted you
- How you have changed or stayed the same since childhood
- Entertaining or funny stories from childhood
- Something you would go back and change about your childhood, if you could
- Your process of growth from childhood

This doesn't have to be limited to your blood family; you can write about anyone who you feel a family-like connection with. It can be positive or negative, and can be as deep as you want it to be.

### Chapter 2: Friends

Topics you might consider:

- What makes a true friend
- How you have or have not been a friend in the past
- Bonding or otherwise special experiences you've had with friends
- An unexpected friend
- An unusual friend
- How a relationship with a friend has changed over time
- What your friends have taught you about yourself
- What you and your friends have been through together

Keep in mind that this section can be as funny, sad or impactful as you make it. MOST OF ALL, remember your theme from the previous chapter, and build on it. You want to have a unifying thread throughout your book.

### Chapter 3: Important Moment(s)

Topics you might consider:

- An occurrence in your life that changed the way you think or act
- A twist of fate
- Something that happened to you that you did not see coming
- A memory forever etched in your brain
- Something that opened a new world opportunity to you, or shut one down

This section can be about whatever occasion you identify as important. It can be positive or negative, and can be as deep as you want it to be. You should use the ending of the piece to identify the effect this event has had on you, how it has changed you, your life, or the lives of others.

## **Chapter 4: Academic Development**

Topics you might consider:

- A turning point in your academic development
- A person who helped shape your academic approach or helped you improve as a student
- Your strengths and weaknesses
- Important learning opportunities
- How your approach toward school has changed over time, and why it changed
- How your past has impacted your present (and possibly your future)
- Your goals for the future

This section can be about whatever occasion you can identify as important. It can be positive or negative, and can be as deep as you want it to be. You can talk about one incident or many. Don't forget you are tying together all of your chapters, so create a link with your main ideas, concepts, themes or symbols.

## **Chapter 5: Influential People**

Topics you might consider:

- What person has changed your life
- How you meet the person
- What the person said or did
- What role the person played in your life
- How your interaction with this person influenced the way you interact with others
- How you emulate this person
- What you learned from your experience with this person

This section can be about whatever occasion you can identify as important. It can be positive or negative, and can be as deep as you want it to be. You can talk about one incident or many.

## **Chapter 6: High School Experience**

Topics you might consider:

- Experiences from high school that have shaped who you are today
- Pressures you've experienced
- Changes ● Accomplishments
- What you've learned about life
- Funny memories
- Sad memories
- Impact of Big Picture learning model on your experience and growth

This section can be about whatever occasion you can identify as important. It can be positive or negative, and can be as deep as you want it to be. You can talk about one incident or many.

## **Chapter 7: Passion**

Topics you might consider:

- What your passion is
- How you developed a passion
- Where your passion has led you
- What you have achieved with this passion
- How your passion is part of who you are
- Instead of passion, consider what you care about and how this has shaped you

This section can be about whatever occasion you can identify as important. It can be positive or negative, and can be as deep as you want it to be. You can talk about one incident or many. Don't forget you are tying together all of your chapters, so create a link with your main ideas, concepts, themes or symbols.

## **Chapter 8: Future Vision**

Topics you might consider:

- What you envision you are doing in ten years
- Where you envision living in the future
- How you see or hope to see the world change
- How you will be influencing others in the future
- What you fear about the future
- What you are looking forward to in the future

This section can be about whatever occasion you can identify as important. It can be positive or negative, and can be as deep as you want it to be. You can talk about one incident or many.

## **Chapter 9: Philosophy of Life**

Topics you might consider:

- How you define or determine what is right and what is wrong
- How you treat others
- Your priorities
- Your understanding of the meaning/purpose of life
- What you've learned through your struggles
- Advice you have for others
- Your moral code

This section can be about whatever occasion you can identify as important. It can be positive or negative, and can be as deep as you want it to be. You can talk about one incident or many.

Don't forget you are tying together all of your chapters, so create a link with your main ideas, concepts, themes or symbols.