Memoirs

• A memoir is form of narrative writing which the writer explores a particular part of his/her life.

• Subjects may include; events, people, places, success and failures.

• It describes the events and then shows, either directly or indirectly, why they are significant.

• Is focused in time; doesn't cover a great span of years -- that's an autobiography
A good memoir......

- Connects to the audience
- Is in 1st person point of view
- features a hook/lead that grabs the reader’s attention immediately
- “shows” doesn’t just “tell” by using descriptive language
- Uses dialogue
- Expresses the author’s thoughts and feelings
- Reveals the importance of the memory to the reader
Formatting a Memoir

- **The beginning** provides the reader with any necessary information about who, what, when, where, why, or how.

- **The middle** outlines a series of events presented in chronological order.

- **The end** provides a personal reaction to the memory- i.e. what was learned or gained from the experience.
Types of Hook/Leads to use in a Memoir

- **Action: Start in the middle of the event**
  
  I gulped my milk, pushed away from the table, and bolted out of the kitchen, slamming the door behind me.

- **Dialogue: Some one speaking**

  “Tim! Get down here right now!” Dad bellowed. His voice sounded angry and I knew I was in serious trouble.
Description: Detail the person/thing

He stood about eight inches tall. He was originally pink, but his color faded to a dingy beige from hugs and kisses I gave him and from all the many adventures we had over the years.

Reaction: A Character Thinking

I couldn’t imagine what my father was so angry about. I thought fast about what I had done so I’d be prepared when I got to him.