

**WRITER'S WORKSHOP Autobiographical Incident**

**Prewriting: Choose Your Topic**

You might want to use this graphic organizer to help you choose a topic for your autobiographical incident.

- ◆ Go back to your Writer's Notebook entries for this collection or to the notes you made for a freewriting activity. Choose three incidents that you might like to write more about, and write one incident in each of the boxes at the top of the graphic organizer.
- ◆ Now, answer the yes/no questions for each incident. The one with the most positive responses is probably the best incident to choose. If you have a tie, you might choose the incident you think would make the most interesting story.

|  | Choice 1 | Choice 2 | Choice 3 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Does this incident mean something special to me? |          |          |          |
| Did I enjoy freewriting about the incident?      |          |          |          |
| Do I remember a lot about the incident?          |          |          |          |
| Am I willing to share the incident with others?  |          |          |          |
| Conclusion: I'm going to write about _____.      |          |          |          |

COLLECTION TWO

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COLLECTION TWO

## Evaluating and Revising: Peer Editing

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the questions below about a classmate's paper, and write down any comments or suggestions you have that might help improve the paper. Then, give your classmate this worksheet. Your responses will provide valuable feedback when it comes time for the writer to revise.

1. Does the beginning grab your attention?    yes     no
2. Do any important parts of the story seem to be missing?    yes     no
3. Are there parts where you would like more specific details?    yes     no
4. Do any parts seem unnecessary?    yes     no
5. Do you understand why the incident is important to the writer?    yes     no

6. What do you like best about this paper? \_\_\_\_\_

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◆ Comments or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Assessment Rubric

|  | <b>Demonstrated Mastery</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Demonstrated Competence</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Inadequate Response</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Focus</b>                                   | The writer clearly focuses the paper on a single incident. <input type="checkbox"/>   | The writer focuses the paper reasonably well on a single incident. <input type="checkbox"/>                                   | The writer does not focus the paper on a single incident. <input type="checkbox"/>                                       |
| <b>Opening</b>                                 | The incident opens in a way that grabs the reader's attention. <input type="checkbox"/>   | The incident opens in a way that is fairly interesting. <input type="checkbox"/>  | The opening of the incident is uninteresting. <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| <b>Background Information</b>                  | The writer includes enough relevant background information to help readers fully understand the story. <input type="checkbox"/> | The writer includes some background information to help readers understand the story. <input type="checkbox"/>                | The writer does not include enough background information to help readers understand the story. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Order</b>                                   | The writer narrates the events in the story in a logical order that readers can easily follow. <input type="checkbox"/>         | The writer narrates the events in the story in a sufficiently logical order that readers can follow. <input type="checkbox"/> | The order of the events in the story is difficult to follow. <input type="checkbox"/>                                    |
| <b>Details</b>                                 | The writer includes many descriptive details that bring the story to life. <input type="checkbox"/>                             | The writer includes an adequate number of descriptive details that give life to the story. <input type="checkbox"/>           | The writer does not include descriptive details. The story seems lifeless. <input type="checkbox"/>                      |
| <b>Significance</b>                            | The paper clearly shows what the incident means to the writer. <input type="checkbox"/>   | The paper adequately shows what the incident means to the writer. <input type="checkbox"/>                                    | The paper does not show what the incident means to the writer. <input type="checkbox"/>                                  |
| <b>Spelling, Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics</b> | The paper has few or no errors in spelling, grammar, usage, and mechanics. <input type="checkbox"/>                             | Occasional errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding of the paper. <input type="checkbox"/>                     | Frequent errors make the paper difficult to understand. <input type="checkbox"/>   |