

One Life. Six Words. What's Yours? Six-Word Memoirs

1. Background: Ernest Hemingway

2. Autobiography

a) (CIRCLE MAP) Start by brainstorming below. Make lists of facts about you. For example: Where do you live? How many siblings do you have? What are your favorite things to do, favorite foods, favorite places, etc.? What important events have happened in your life? What about conflict? Any events, people, places that changed you? What is important to you? What are some personality traits that describe you? Phrases or mottos that capture your verve.

2) Next, choose six words from your list to summarize some aspect of who you are or what you are like. I encourage you to use mainly nouns and verbs (strong words). Feel free to use any of the examples below as mentor texts!

Examples from kids and teens:

- Desperate to explore, yet stuck here.- Ruth C.
- Laughed at all the wrong moments.- Kierra B.
- I draw my dreams in crayon. - Riley
- He left. Mom cried. Roller-coaster ride. -Danielle W.
- Always took every opportunity I got.- Jesse
- I will be a paramedic someday. - Lauren
- I fulfilled my awkwardness quota today. - Maggie A.
- I made captain. Then enemies.- Mollie

6 Word Memoir Rubric

Ideas/Content: Your memoir is deep and powerful; instead of being just a basic description of you. It is centered around one main idea.

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• 5 4 3 2 1 (x2)
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Word Choice: You have chosen powerful, vivid, specific verbs and nouns.

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• 5 4 3 2 1 (x2)
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Voice: Your memoir accurately depicts the life of your subject. The reader should be able to connect the subject with the ‘story’ that is being told about him/her.

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• 5 4 3 2 1 (x1)
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Visual:

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• 5 4 3 2 1 (x1)
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