

ROOTS PROJECT 2013-2014

What are the steps for writing an autobiography?

Autobiography – Life History

1. *Write all the years in numbers you have been alive, perhaps one year per page in a notebook.*
2. *Think back about anything you remember:*
 - a. *Significant events*
 - b. *Friends*

Write down notes associated with the particular year on your sheet.

3. *Expand upon them. Use the completed notebook, all years filled in with what happened during them; to begin a more formal work.*
4. *Make LOTS of lists: List important dates from your birth through now.*
 - a. *List everyone that you have ever known.*
 - b. *List all your pets.*
 - c. *List vacations you have taken*
 - d. *List major illnesses*
 - e. *List the places where you have lived*
 - f. *List the schools you attended*
 - g. *List any important highlights in your life*
 - h. *Include things like first day of school*
 - i. *First date*
 - j. *First job*
5. *Beside each event, jot down a short description or interesting fact.*
6. *Doesn't need to be grammatically correct yet or even in full sentences.*
7. *Remember to include emotions – how did it feel when you rode a bike for the first time?*
8. *Narrow each list down to around 10 items.*
9. *Choose only the most important events in your life to save in the autobiography.*
10. *Don't throw away any notes. Keep them as part of your research.*
11. *Your autobiography should include three basic parts:*
 - a. *Who you are,*
 - b. *What life means to you,*
 - c. *And your outlook for the future.*

12. *Read over the lists and combine them into a story, (use paragraphs) beginning with your birth.*
13. *Put down all the facts and this time put them into correct grammar and checking your spelling and punctuation.*
14. *Add more details if you think of them.*
15. ***“The greatest novel you will ever read is the story of your life.”***