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| Criteria | 3+Excellent! | 3Good! | 2Not too shabby! | 1Try again! |
| Details | There are at least 3 effective details in the memoir. The details and language help the reader to visualize the moment.  | There are at least 2 details in the memoir. The reader can visualize parts of the memoir. | There is one detail in the memoir. The reader can visualize parts of the memoir. | There is no attempt at details in the memoir. |
| Narrow Topic | I wrote about a seed topic and not a watermelon topic. I stay on topic and focus on a small moment that gives a big impact. | I have a seed topic but got a bit off track. I added a few details that weren’t important to the main event.  | I tried to choose a seed topic, but there are a lot of extra details that don’t add to the memoir. | I have a watermelon topic. I didn’t focus on one moment and included too many details that are not important. |
| 1st personnarration | I use 1st person narration to add consistent voice to my memoir. It’s personal and my reader understands something about me. | I use 1st person narration to add voice. My personality comes through in most parts. | I use 1st person narration but there are only a few times when my personality really comes through. | I don’t use first person narration or there is no personal feeling in the memoir. |
| So…what? | The reader can clearly pick out the so…what? It’s easy to see why the writer chose this topic and how it changed them, had an impact on them (powerful emotion) or taught them something. | The reader can find the so…what?, but it’s not completely clear why it had an impact on the writer or how it changed them or taught them something. | The so…what? is kind of hard to find. There are a few places where the reader can sense why this is an important topic, but it isn’t really detailed. | The so…what? is very hard to find and the reader doesn’t understand why the topic is important. |
| Conventions | The writer has used all conventions effectively and there are 2 or less mistakes in the writing. | The writer has used the conventions properly. There are 5 or fewer mistakes in the writing. | The writer understands the concept of conventions, but there are more than 5 mistakes. The writer has attempted to proof-read, but has missed some mistakes. | Whoa! Way too many mistakes. There is an attempt at using conventions correctly, but over 10 mistakes make the writing clear as mud. The writer needs to proof-read the work. |

Memoir Rubric