

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (because you get this copy only)

## Senior Memory Book, 2017

This semester you will be writing a Senior Memory Book (SMB). The writing of this book will culminate in May. **Each chapter will receive a separate grade, and the completed SMB will count as your final exam.** You will be required to have a binder or photo album exclusively for this book. At least one day a week of class time will be allocated for writing each chapter. The revision of the chapters is your responsibility. At the end of the year, some class time may be allocated to completing the book. The book will contain **at least ten chapters**, and the chapters must be typed and contain sufficient detail, thought, and direction. Entries that are “thrown together” will be graded accordingly.

You will be graded on content, structure, grammar, development of ideas, sophistication of language, etc. This means that you need to proofread and edit before turning in the drafts and the final copy.

Similar to a scrapbook, you are encouraged to add creativity to the book in the form of drawings, photographs, mementos, magazine clippings, etc.; in fact, these artifacts count as extra credit (because not everyone has access to this kind of material). Obviously, the more care taken in the presentation of the book, the higher the grade will be. The more basic the book, the lower the grade will be. How you use your class time on SMB days will affect your grade along the way; solid effort will result in high participation grades and low effort, low grades.

---

**Chapter 1: “Who am I?”** Introduce yourself in a clever, unique way. This does not mean that you are to write a paragraph of random ideas that gives information like, “I have two sisters, and I am 50% Irish on my mother’s side and German and Italian on my father’s side.” Rather, present the information in a clever/ creative manner. **IDEAS:** You can start out by giving two or three adjectives that you feel best sums up your character and work from there. Identify your horoscope and qualities/characteristics/symbol that are connected to your horoscope. How is this like OR not like who you are? –or—What is the actual meaning of your name? Where did your parents get your name? Would you change it? If you could pick your name, what would it be? How does it suit you or not suit you and why is that so? Nicknames also can be used-or-What is your ancestry? What is common of that group of people, and how is it like or not like who you are. Explain why this is so. Consider browsing through [www.babynamewizard.com/voyager](http://www.babynamewizard.com/voyager) and [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

**Chapter 2: "Before I Was, They Were"** Design a family tree. Include a family tree chart. Tell about folks who were around before you were born: grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, older siblings; identify how they are connected to your life. Do you have any favorite relatives? Tell about time spent, a favorite story about them or better yet, have that person write a favorite story about you and react to it. Think back to the stories that you hear at family get-togethers, you know--the ones that are embarrassing, hysterical, or repeated so many times you can’t listen to them anymore!

**Chapter 3: “Memory Timeline”** Design a timeline – starting with birth and ending with now- that pays special homage to the music, poetry, fashion, movies of your life OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL. For instance, as an infant, what songs were sung to you? What were the first songs you sang at each age? As you get older, you develop new tastes in music. What were you and your friends listening to in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, etc.? What was the in-fashion statement at the time? What movies did you watch over and over again? Plot it on a timeline. Then discuss some of the favorites that you listed on the timeline to complete a full text page.

**Chapter 4: “School Bells”** Recall your elementary school days OR your middle school days. Do you remember the first day of school? Your first or closest school friend? Any embarrassing moments? Your favorite teachers, the teacher “from hell,” incidents on the playground, lunch room, practical jokes etc.? How would you describe a perfect day when you were younger? What did you think life would be like when you were older? Picture yourself back in elementary or middle school and recall the stories. Embellish your Senior Memory Book with mementos (awards, photos, assignments) from that time if you have them.

**Chapter 5: Vacation Time:** Choose a meaningful vacation (whether a weekend at a friend’s home or a tour of Europe) and write about how it impacted your life. Families travel/vacation differently, so write based on your experience, not to impress. Think: Was it a lesson you learned as a result of this trip? Was it an experience (unexpected, maybe) that gave you a good life perspective?

**Chapter 6: “I Wish I Could See Again”** –Tell about a childhood friend, neighbor, or teacher that you have had no contact with since elementary or middle school, but would like to see again. We all remember those who left, moved away etc. Describe your relationship with that person; what do you remember most? What would you like to tell him/her if you had a chance?

**Chapter 7: “My First Crush”** -Many of us have experienced this. Create a bullet list of ten feelings/images/ moments that are connected with that experience. For each bullet, write at least three sentences that connect to this experience. Describe when you knew you were in love in elementary, middle, or high school. You may also include tales of a first kiss, a first break-up, etc. Tell your perception now in reflecting on this and a lesson you learned about love. Do you believe in love at first sight? How about soul mates?

**Chapter 8: “I Love These Things”** –Choose an item (or a few) from your past that holds special significance: an award received, a teddy bear, a favorite item of clothing (dress up, team jersey, etc.) Create a bullet list of ten feelings/ images/ moments that are connected to this item. For each bullet, write three sentences that connect to this item.

**Chapter 9: “High School: The Early Years”** – (Your freshmen, sophomore, and junior years –highlights, troubles, successes, heartbreaks, greatest triumph, greatest disaster, teachers, friends, etc. –you don’t have to write about all of these but this should be a longer chapter. Think ahead to when your own children ask you about high school. What stories will you tell? If you could relive one day, which one would it be? What experience would you like to have a do over for so you could do it better?

**Chapter 10: “At Last, I’m A Senior”** – In twenty years, you will have forgotten most of the things that fill your life now. What are the things about who you are now? What do you enjoy and value, etc. that you want to remember twenty years from now? Imagine what will be important to your memory of yourself later on. How will your classmates remember you? Who would you like to see at the twenty year high school reunion? How do you think you will be different and/ or the same? What do you suppose you will be doing in twenty years?

**Chapter 11: “The Things I Carry”**-Take from your purse/backpack/car trunk, etc three items. For each of the items you choose, write a passage that describes the items, why those items are important to you, and why they are maybe even necessary for your daily living.

**Chapter 12: “Goodbye Letter”** – Use this chapter as either a goodbye letter to a teacher or classmate or a letter of advice to the underclassmen titled, “How to Survive High School.”

**Chapter 13: “Bucket List”** –*Make a list of the ten* things you want to do before you die and *explain why you want to accomplish those things*. Then *make a list of five things* that you have learned thus far in your life—as in life lessons, insights etc. and *explain why these have been important lessons*.

**Chapter 14: “The Five Year Plan”** –What do you want your life to be like fifty years from now? Do you want to live by the ocean? Do you want to start a family? If so, in 5 years? 10? 20? Do you want to travel? Where would you like to have visited in the next 15 years? 25? What sort of job do you hope to have? In five year increments, explain the steps you will take to get to where you want to be. It probably would be easiest to identify where you want to be as you hope your life will end up, and then map out where and at what period each step will lead to the next. Have fun with this.

**Chapter 15: “Proust Questionnaire”** –This is a questionnaire about one's personality. Its name and modern popularity as a form of interview is owed to the responses given by the French writer Marcel Proust. You must respond to *at least* fifteen questions.

1. What is your idea of perfect happiness?
2. What is your greatest fear?
3. Which historical figure do you most identify with?
4. Which living person do you most admire?
5. What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?
6. What is the trait you most deplore in others?
7. What is your greatest extravagance?
8. On what occasion do you lie?
9. What is your current state of mind?
10. When and where were you happiest?
11. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
12. If you could change one thing about your family what would it be?
13. What do you consider your greatest achievement?
14. If you died and came back as a person or thing, what do you think it would be?
15. What is your most treasured possession?
16. What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?
17. Who are your heroes in real life?
18. What is it that you most dislike?
19. What is the quality you most admire in a man?
20. What is the quality you most admire in a woman?
21. What is the quality you most value in a friend?
22. What contemporary figure do you most despise?
23. What to your mind would be the greatest misfortune?
24. What expression do you most overuse?
25. What is your motto?

**End Notes:** Although there are 15 chapters, you need 20 typed pages total, so some chapters will need to go long. Your format for everything must start in 12p font, Times New Roman, but once you have shown me you have the correct length, you can play with font style and size in your actual book. If you struggle with any particular chapter (trigger, lack of info, etc.), you can eliminate it and just write longer on other chapters. It's YOUR Senior Memory Book; you can adjust as you need—just talk with me before making a major adjustment to the content.