**Memoir (200 Points)**

***The past is never dead. It’s not even past. – William Faulkner***

*Sometimes the memory of an object, a person, or a place has a story connected to it that really shows why the memory of it matters.*

**A memoir is:** a piece of literary nonfiction, *based* in truth, where a writer reflects on an experience in his or her life. Indeed, what distinguishes memoir from personal narrative is the experience factor: ideas are purposefully arranged around the result of this experience rather than a chronology of events.

* Writers usually communicate their memoirs from the first person point of view, told in past tense. They strategically organize events, details, ideas, and reflections or observations to influence the audience’s emotions and understanding of an implicit or explicit theme.
* They use stylistic devices such as sensory imagery, archetypes, irony, symbolism, parody, and satire to support the presentation of this theme. Notably, memoirists rely upon precise diction and sentence structure to craft tone, helping to isolate a moment that’s interesting and reveals something about the universal human condition.
* Memoirs are usually multi-model pieces, weaving narrative and exposition. Some memoirs contain elements of research integrated into the writer’s experience; some offer a series of events gathered around a theme, rather than one experience. And, some memoir pieces stem from the memory of an object, person, place, or time in life that needs to be ―explained more than told.

For your final written piece of the semester, you are going to write an original memoir. We have spent the past couple weeks examining moments from our lives through various journal prompts. For your convenience, here are some moments for you to consider as the focus for your piece:

* *Your earliest memory*
* *Your most embarrassing moment / memory*
* *Your first day of school memory*
* *Six-word memoirs*
* *Your list of firsts…*
* *A memorable contest / competition*
* *Souvenirs, mementos, and artifacts*

Please refer to the attached outline to help you plan your final piece… ☺