7-2012

Write Your Own Autobiography [6th grade]

Jeanine Capitani
Trinity University

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Unit Title: Write Your Own Autobiography

Grade Level: 6

Subject/Topic Area(s): Writing

Designed By: Jeanine Capitani

Time Frame: 14 days

Brief Summary of Unit (Including curricular context and unit goals):

This is a unit meant to be done near the beginning of the school year after reviewing the writing process and discuss writing requirements for the year. Beginning with sharing the teacher’s autobiography gives the students a background on their teacher and helps them identify with the teacher. Writing a personal autobiography will allow students to share parts of their lives with their peers and to gain a better understanding of their own history and their goals for the future.
## Write Your Own Autobiography

### Stage 1 – Desired Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Established Goals (e.g., standards)</th>
<th>Transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEKS: 110.18. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 6 (b) Knowledge and skills.</td>
<td>Students will independently use their learning to...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14) Writing/Writing Process. Students use elements of the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) to compose text.</td>
<td>• Complete an autobiography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16) Writing. Students write about their own experiences. Students are expected to write a personal narrative that has a clearly defined focus and communicates the importance of or reasons for actions and/or consequences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(20) Oral and Written Conventions/Handwriting, Capitalization, and Punctuation. Students write legibly and use appropriate capitalization and punctuation conventions in their compositions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(21) Oral and Written Conventions/Spelling.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Understanding</th>
<th>Essential Questions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will understand that...</td>
<td>• Who are you and where do you come from?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Our family and personal history shape who we are.</td>
<td>• How has your family influenced your life?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• How does the past affect the future?</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students will know...</td>
<td>Students will be able to...</td>
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<tr>
<td>• What an autobiography is and how to write their own.</td>
<td>• Explain why an autobiography is important to understand a person’s history.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• How to use the writing process effectively: brainstorm, rough draft, edit, revise, finalize, and publish.</td>
<td>• Write effectively and with detail about their personal history.</td>
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</table>

Jeanine Capitani 2012
### Stage 2 – Evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE (M or T)</th>
<th>Evaluative Criteria (for rubric)</th>
<th>Evaluative Criteria (for rubric)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Use of Descriptive Language</td>
<td>Performance Task(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Sentence Fluency</td>
<td>Students will demonstrate meaning-making and transfer by...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Paragraph construction</td>
<td>• Students will write an autobiography.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mechanics</td>
<td>Other Evidence (e.g., formative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Following directions</td>
<td>• Students will complete worksheets as they progress through the unit that will comprise different sections of their autobiography.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&amp; Use of Class Time</td>
<td>(Adapted from: <em>Create-an-Autobiography: 1995 Educational Impressions, Inc.</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bell Ringers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Exit Slips</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Stage 3 – Learning Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CODE (A, M, T)</th>
<th>Pre-Assessment</th>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
<th>Progress Monitoring (e.g., formative data)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Begin with the EQ: “Who are you and where do you come from?”</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Students will read and discuss the handout: “Autobiography Assignment”</td>
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<td>Students will complete the “Parent Form” worksheet at home with their parents.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students will complete the “Family” worksheet.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students will complete the “Friends” worksheet.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Students will complete the “My Neighborhood” worksheet.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Students will complete the “Things I Like to Do” worksheet.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students will complete the “Future” worksheets.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students will answer the EQ: “How has your family influenced your life?”</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Students will peer edit each other’s work after each section using the peer review form.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students will discuss the EQ: “How does the past affect the future?”</td>
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</table>
**Day 1**
- Begin by handing out Bell Ringer: Day 1 and having students answer the question: Who are you and where do you come from?
- Think-Pair-Share: When everyone is done, students pair up and discuss their answers (similarities/differences), then share as a class and discuss.
- Ask the question: What is an autobiography? Discuss as a class.
- Teacher should have a prepared autobiography and read it to the class (it should contain all of the requirements of the student autobiography).

**Day 2**
- Show the class a few different examples of autobiographies and share small portions of them.
- Explain that we are going to be writing autobiographies.
- Hand out the worksheet “Autobiography Assignment” and discuss with students.
- **Homework:** Students will take home the “Parent Form” worksheet and complete it with their parents to be turned in on Day 4. Explain that they also need to look for pictures that represent their life that they will need to bring in by Day 6.

**Day 3**
- Bell Ringer: Day 3
- Think-Pair-Share: Ask the EQ: “How has your family influenced your life?”
- Students will complete a draft of the “Family” worksheet.
- When they finish, students will partner up with another student and peer review each other’s work.
- Students will make corrections and put their ideas into paragraph form.
- **Homework:** Students will finish the “Family” paragraph and come up with a title for it.

**Day 4**
- Students will draft their introduction by using the information from the “Parent Form” and putting it into a paragraph.
- When they finish, students will partner up with another student and peer review each other’s work.
- Students will make corrections to their work and create a title for it.
- **Exit Slip: Day 4**

**Day 5**
- Students will complete a draft of the “Friends” worksheet.
- When they finish, students will partner up with another student and peer review each other’s work.
- Students will make corrections and put their ideas into paragraph form.
- **Exit Slip: Day 5**
- **Homework:** Students will finish the “Friends” paragraph and come up with a title for it. Bring in pictures tomorrow.

**Day 6**
- Students will complete any unfinished work and have a chance to review their work with the teacher and get feedback. Make sure each of the sections has a title.
- Students who are done will draw pictures to go with the sections they have already written. Pictures must be relevant to their life and show specific people and/or events.
- **Exit Slip: Day 6**
**Day 7**
-Bell Ringer: Day 7
-Students will complete a draft of the “My Neighborhood” worksheet.
-When they finish, students will partner up with another student and peer review each other’s work.
-Students will make corrections and put their ideas into paragraph form.
**Homework:** Students will finish the “My Neighborhood” paragraph and create a title for it.

**Day 8**
-Students will complete a draft of the “Things I Like to Do” worksheet.
-When they finish, students will partner up with another student and discuss what similarities and differences they had. If they want to change anything after their discussion, they may do so.
-Students will fill in the “Things I Like to Do” chart and put their ideas into paragraph form.
-Exit Slip: Day 8
**Homework:** Students will finish the “Things I Like to Do” conclusion paragraph and create a title for it.

**Day 9**
-Bell Ringer: Day 9
-Students will complete the “Future: Part 1” and the “Future: Part 2” worksheets.
-If they finish, students will partner up with another student and peer review each other’s work.
-Students will make corrections and put their ideas into paragraph form.
**Homework:** Students will finish the “Future” paragraphs and create one title for them. They should be written on the same page.

**Day 10**
-Students will complete any unfinished work and will have an opportunity to consult with the teacher.
-Students will fill out the final rubric on their own work to see if they need to make any changes.
-Students will draw pictures to go with the new sections. Pictures must be relevant to their life and show specific people and/or events.
**Homework:** Complete any work or pictures.

**Day 11**
-Students will begin putting their autobiographies together. Pass out the “Putting your autobiography together” form and discuss before students begin.
-Students will work independently.

**Day 12**
-Finish putting autobiographies together.
-Exit Slip: Day 12

**Day 13 – Day 14**
-Students will share their autobiographies with the class.
-When finished, discuss as a class the last EQ: How does the past affect the future? What does this mean?
What is an autobiography? An autobiography is the story of someone’s life, written by that person.

We are going to be writing autobiographies in English class during the next few weeks. We are going to be doing a lot of writing in class and there will be homework assignments so you can ask your family to help you fill out some of the forms. You will also be required to bring in pictures that we will add to your final project.

Your job will be to first get information from your parents

Here are the different topics you will be writing about:
   1) Birth Information
   2) Family
   3) Friends
   4) My Neighborhood
   5) My Hobbies
   6) Goals for the Future

You will need to write in complete sentences using good, descriptive words. Remember to write in paragraph form and begin each section with a topic sentence. Don’t forget to use transition words when introducing something new! Have fun with this project and really think about these different aspects of your life and why they are important to defining who you are.
Dear Parents,

We are writing autobiographies in English class and your student needs your help! Please help them fill out the following worksheet to be turned in on Insert a date.

Also, to complete their autobiography, each student needs to bring in pictures that I will scan into the computer to add to their final project. (All pictures will be returned at the end of the assignment.) Please put the pictures in the envelope I am sending home with your students’ name on it. Pictures are due on Insert a date.

Here is a starting idea for pictures, but feel free to include whatever you want:

- Baby picture  - Grandparents  - House/Bedroom  - Friends
- Family Picture - Family vacation - Family Pets - Funny Pictures

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you very much for your support!

- Insert Teacher Name and contact information
Autobiography: Parent Form (Page 2)
(Copyright FamilyHistoryProducts.com)

First Name ________________________________________________
Middle Name ______________________________________________
Last Name ________________________________________________
I was born on ______________________ (date) in the town/city of ____________________________

______________________________ (location, including hospital if known).
I was born at _______ am / pm on a __________________________ (day of the week *below).

My Birth Weight: _______________ My Birth Length: _______________

My father is (name) ________________________________
My mother is (name) ________________________________

Complications at birth?: ________________________________

_______________________________________________________

Had I been born the opposite sex, my parents were going to name me ______________________

_______________________________________________________

My nationality is ______________________ and my ethnicity background is ______________________

_______________________________________________________

I was born number _______ of ________ children.
I have _____ brother(s) & _____ sister(s) _____ step-brother(s) _____ step-sister(s)

My natural hair color is ________________, My eyes are ________________ in color.

*To figure out the day of the week you were born on, go to this website:
http://www.mathsisfun.com/games/dayofweek.html

Jeanine Capitani 2012
Bell Ringer: Day 1

Answer the question using complete sentences. Take a minute to think about it before you begin to answer.

Who are you and where do you come from?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Name ___________________________ Date ______________

Bell Ringer: Day 3

Answer the question using complete sentences. Take a minute to think about it before you begin to answer.

Write down 3 things you learned about your teacher after hearing their autobiography?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What are 2 questions you have for your teacher?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Jeanine Capitani 2012
Bell Ringer: Day 7

Answer the question using complete sentences. Take a minute to think about it before you begin to answer.

What do you like about your neighborhood?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Who are your favorite people in your neighborhood?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Bell Ringer: Day 9

Answer the question using complete sentences. Take a minute to think about it before you begin to answer.

What is something you struggle with? (Does not have to involve school)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What is a goal you have for this year? (school, sports, friends, at home…)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Name ________________________ Date ________________

Exit Slip: Day 4

What have you learned about yourself? If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Name ________________________ Date ________________

Exit Slip: Day 5

List 3 ways your friends have influenced your life.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Describe 2 things you value in your friends.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What is 1 thing you wish you could do for a friend?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Exit Slip: Day 6

How have your family and friends shaped who you are? How would you be different without them?


Exit Slip: Day 8

What is an activity you don’t think you will enjoy in 50 years? Explain why you think you won’t enjoy doing it.


What are some things that you and your classmate had in common?
How has this assignment helped you understand your own personal history?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of Descriptive Language</td>
<td>Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.</td>
<td>Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.</td>
<td>Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or captures the reader's interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Fluency</td>
<td>All sentences are well-constructed with varied lengths. They sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud. Each sentence is clear and has an obvious emphasis.</td>
<td>Most sentences are well-constructed but have a similar structure. Most sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud, but several are stiff and awkward or are difficult to understand.</td>
<td>Sentences lack structure and appear incomplete or rambling. The sentences are difficult to read aloud because they sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or difficult to understand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph Construction</td>
<td>All paragraphs include introductory sentence, transition phrases, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.</td>
<td>Most paragraphs include introductory sentence, transition phrases, explanations or details, and concluding sentence. Some were not constructed well.</td>
<td>Paragraphing structure was not clear and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics</td>
<td>No grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.</td>
<td>A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors</td>
<td>Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following Directions &amp; Use of Class Time</td>
<td>Students followed all directions and included all of the required information. Student used time wisely and always got straight to work.</td>
<td>Students followed most of the directions and included most of the required information. Student mostly used time in class wisely, but needed reminders to stay focused.</td>
<td>Students did not follow all of the directions and are missing most of the required information. Student did not use time in class wisely and did not accomplish daily assignments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments: ________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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Jeanine Capitani 2012
How To Put Your Autobiography Together

*You will go onto the computer when the teacher calls you up. You will create a title page with your name on it and you will insert the your baby picture. If you had other pictures, they will be printed on a separate sheet of paper and you can add them to your autobiography wherever you want them.

1) Pick 2 sheets of the same color 12 x 18 construction paper. Fold your sheets in half carefully so that the edges match up. Place one sheet inside the other.

2) Take it to the front and your teacher will help you staple them together on the fold.

3) Leave the front page blank, as you will put your title page there.

4) The next page will be for your table of contents. You need to decide what order you want to put your final pieces in. This will be up to you. Fill out the “Table of Contents” page with the titles you created and then glue it in.

5) Put your final pieces in the correct order, and they will each be placed onto a different page. Look at your Table of Contents, so you don’t forget the order! Do NOT glue! Get together with a friend to make sure you have placed them correctly.

6) Glue your paragraphs onto the correct page.

7) You can cut out or simply glue your drawings onto the pages where they best fit. This is your creation, so you can make it look how you want it to look.

8) If you have other pictures sent from home, you can cut them out and figure out where to place them.
Table of Contents

p. 3

p. 4

p. 5

p. 6

p. 7

p. 8
Peer Review Form

Peer Reviewer Name  ________________________________________________
Writer’s Name  ________________________________________________

2 Things I liked about this writing:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2 Pieces of advice I have about this writing:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2 Questions I have are:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Suggestions for improvement:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Jeanine Capitani 2012
A family is composed of people living together and functioning as a unit. In the space below, answer the questions to describe what your family looks like.

Write a topic sentence introducing your family.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How many brothers and/or sisters do you have? Describe them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sibling Name</th>
<th>Their age</th>
<th>What you like best about them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

If you are an only child, do you wish you had a sibling? Explain why or why not.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Describe your parents. What do they do for you that is special?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Jeanine Capitani 2012
Describe your grandparents. Do they live close to you? How often do you see them? What do you like about spending time with them?

What other relatives do you see often? What are their names and how do you feel about spending time with them? If you have cousins, describe them.

What else can you say about your family?
What is your definition of a friend?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Who are your friends?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Why are they your friends? What special qualities do they have? How do they support you?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any friends who are older or younger than you? How is your relationship with them different from friends your own age?

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_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any friends who are relatives? Describe your relationship.

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_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
A neighborhood is composed of the people living near each other; often the neighborhood has distinguishing characteristics, or a “personality” that has developed over a period of time. In this activity you will describe your neighborhood and your place in it.

Describe your neighborhood. How does it look? Include descriptions of the streets, landscapes, buildings, and views. What is something that makes your neighborhood unique?

________________________________________________________________________

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How long have you lived in your neighborhood? If you moved there, what was it like when you first moved in?

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How did you get to know your neighbors? Do your neighbors do anything together as a community? For example, do you have block parties?

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________
Who are your closest neighbors? Describe them. What is your relationship with them?


What do you like about your home compared to others in your neighborhood? Would you rather live somewhere else?


What do you like about your neighborhood?


If you could change anything about your neighborhood, what would it be?


Jeanine Capitani 2012
In the space below list fifteen things you enjoy doing now. Take a minute to think about the sports you play, the games you enjoy, and the different activities you do by yourself, with your family, and with your friends before you begin writing. Next, check the ten-year, thirty-year, and/or fifty-year columns if you think you will still enjoy those things ten, thirty, and/or fifty years from now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things I Enjoy Now</th>
<th>Will I Still Like Them In…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Years</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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*Once you have finished your peer review and written your paragraph, transfer this page to the final “Things I Like to Do” chart. Make sure everything is spelled correctly before you re-write it.
Why are some activities only appropriate for certain ages?

What activities do you think you will do 50 years from now?

What conclusions can you draw from the completed chart about your life?
## Things I Like to Do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things I Enjoy Now</th>
<th>Will I Still Like Them In…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Years</td>
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</table>

Jeanine Capitani 2012
Everyone has goals that they set for themselves. Think about something that you want to improve in. Think about something you want to achieve. What are your goals for this year?

Why is it important to have goals?

What is an academic goal(s) that you have for yourself this year?

What goal(s) do you have for yourself at home? This can be with your parents, your siblings, or even an activity that is only done at home.
What extra-curricular goal(s) do you have for yourself this year? This can be any activity that you do outside of school.

________________________________________

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What are your goals with your friendships this year? Can you be a better friend? How could accomplish this?

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What other goals do you have for yourself this year?

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Jeanine Capitani 2012
Imagine yourself in twenty years. Answer the following questions and really think about what goals you have for the future. Make sure to include good descriptions.

What job would you like to have? Why?
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What would your dream house look like?


What other goals do you have for yourself twenty years from now?