

Story of A Current Event in Vignettes (6 pages)

Using Eduardo Galeano's masterpiece, *Memory of Fire*, as a model, you will write a series of vignettes comprising six pages about a current event. This is a creative nonfiction assignment, a story told in several parts (minimum of 7 vignettes, maximum of 14), from different perspectives, locations or points in time. It will illustrate various aspects of the event, its specific causes, roots, historical inspirations, personalities and/or individuals, using descriptive or poetic language, dialogue, imagery, etc. Please be as true to life as possible; for each vignette, it is a good idea to use songs, videos, photos and various texts readily available online in order to incorporate specific details and other information that are lesser-known or interesting. This will make the scenes and vignettes of your factual historical document come alive, and ultimately read more like a linked essay or series of (very) short stories.

Rubric / Evaluation Areas (out of 25 possible points)

Strength of Your Topic (out of 3) This narrative essay is based on an issue/problem/question that is meaningful, incorporating sociocultural import (i.e. While the essay is about your life, the themes should be universal enough that I can find meaning in your conclusions, and in the images and implicit significance you construct through your prose.) It deals with the "So What?" factor, and teaches me something I didn't know about you, and hopefully makes me think about something in a new and meaningful light!

For detailed explanations of specific problems and how to make improvements, read the appropriate sections of your McGraw Hill Handbook.

Development of the Main Issue(s) (out of 3)

(Does the essay develop the main issue with effective details and examples? Does the narrative "show" through concrete description rather than merely "tell," allowing the reader to evaluate and fully understand what is going on?)

Balance of Research/Strength of Sources (out of 3) Opposing views and/or essential background information is included when applicable. I want to see that you researched multiple sides to your argument or statement, and that the writer is knowledgeable of many aspects of this topic, even if you choose to take one specific stance.

Resolution, Viewpoint or Message (out of 3)

(Does the conclusion address "reader-relevance," teach readers something meaningful

about the writer's life– i.e. answer the “So What?” question? Does it employ critical thinking about the socio-cultural context in which the writer exists?)

Organization & Connectedness (out of 3)

(Is the narrative organized, easy to follow, with effective transitions and paragraphing?

Does the writer make effective and creative use of the "vignettes" structure?)

Prose (out of 3): The writing itself is original, precise, DESCRIPTIVE and SPECIFIC. The writer displays an understanding of tone. There is evidence of creative style, a sense of a strong voice, and varied use of words and language. The images and expressions are unique as opposed to riddled with cliches.

Readability – Grammar & Mechanics: (out of 2)

Subject-Verb Agreement

Verb Tenses and Verb Forms

Sentence Punctuation—Fragments, Run-ons, Fused Sentences

Spelling

Sources and Documentation (MLA) (out of 2) The MLA version of the article incorporates a variety of credible sources. The sources are always identified, correctly documented and introduced smoothly with attributive tags and lead-in phrases. All of the sources are cited in alphabetical order and correct MLA style in the “Works Cited” list.

Evidence of Writing Process (out of 3)

(Did the writer turn in copies of every draft:, peer reviews, conference draft, and final draft?)