Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**School of Life Narrative**

*Your “School of Life” piece is about an event in your life that you remember because it changed you, taught you something, helped you grow, opened your eyes, or gave you a taste of life’s gifts.*

Now that we’ve spent some time thinking about a memorable event in our lives and considering how it was significant, we’re going to start drafting. Beginning a piece is often the hardest part, so I’m going to give you some help with your “lead.”

1. WHAT’S A LEAD? A lead is another word for an introduction, but it’s more than just an intro, because it pulls your readers into your piece and makes them want to keep reading.

There are many kinds of LEADS, but I’m going to give you three options to pick from:

The ACTION LEAD

The DIALOGUE LEAD

The REACTION LEAD

An explanation for these three types of leads is on the back of this sheet.🡪

1. PICKING A LEAD: To decide which lead you’re going to use for your own piece, start by reviewing the time line in your notebook. Choose a specific MOMENT in the time line of events that is suitable for an ACTION, DIALOGUE, or REACTION lead.
   1. Is there a moment where something really exciting or surprising happens? Maybe an action lead is a good choice.
   2. Is there a moment where there is an interesting conversation or when someone says something really important in the story? Maybe a dialogue lead is a good choice.
   3. Is there a moment when you were really struck by a new idea, a surprising thought, or had an interesting reaction? Maybe the reaction lead is a good choice.

You are going to DROP YOUR READER INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY through the use of one of these leads! This means you probably won’t begin your story right at the beginning of your time line. Instead your story sequence may look like this:

1. Begin in the middle by dropping the reader into an event.
2. After the lead, flash back to tell us how you got to that point in the story, filling in the WHAT, WHEN, WHERE of the story and revealing the CONFLICT.
3. Finish the story.
4. Reflect on the memory’s significance and conclude.
5. Take a look at my piece, “Game Changer,” as an example of this, taking note of things I wrote in the margins to help you recognize each of the above sections.

**Due dates--RD of lead: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ RD: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Typed FD: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Refer to the Grading Rubric for the requirements of the School of Life Narrative.