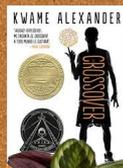
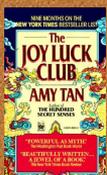
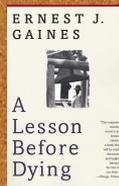


Reading is an adventure....



Selfie of a Scholar:

Using a still life and memoir to develop a Scholarship Essay  
With Ms. Sonnier and Ms. Himel





What is a memoir?



-a historical account or biography written from personal knowledge or special sources

-an autobiography or a written account of one's memory of certain events or people

-Memoirs are factual stories about someone's life. 'Memoir' is from the French word *mémoire*, which means 'reminiscence' or 'memory.' They are a part of the nonfiction literary genre and are usually told in the first person



**BELIEVE**  
that  
**YOU CAN**  
and you're already  
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Some synonyms for memoir:



- Account
- Chronicle
- Narrative
- Story
- Report
- Portrayal
- Depiction
- Sketch
- Portrait
- Life story

Some memoirs you might have heard of:

Becoming by Michelle Obama

A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

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What is a still life? (plural: still lifes)

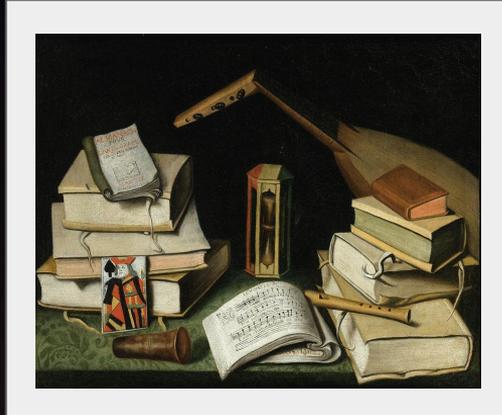


A still life is a work of art depicting mostly inanimate subject matter, typically commonplace objects which are either natural (food, flowers, dead animals, plants, rocks, shells, etc.) or man-made (drinking glasses, books, vases, jewelry, coins, pipes, etc.).



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For Example...



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Mrs. Himel's Still Life:

- Pictures of kids/ grandbaby
- Family Recipe book
- School agenda
- Pen and post it note collection
- Globe
- Family sign



Looking at this still life, what do you learn about Mrs. Himel?  
Take 1 minute and write a brief description.





### Mrs. Himel's Still Life:

- Pictures of kids/ grandbaby- they are the center of my world.
- Family Recipe book- I love to cook and this cookbook is a collaboration of family recipes and a family history.
- School agenda- I am a very organized person and I love being a teacher. This helps me to keep my BUSY life in order.
- Pen and post it note collection- I have post-it notes everywhere on my desk and at home as little reminders.
- Globe- I love to travel and take long roadtrips
- Family sign- Family is the foundation of who I am.



Looking at this still life, what do you learn about Mrs. Himel?  
Take 1 minute and write a brief description.





## Ms. Sonnier's still life

- UL Binder
- Snake Plant
- Statue of Greek Goddess, Athena
- Other mythological creatures (mermaid; Pegasus)
- Golden Apple Paperweight
- Pencils
- Keepsake Jar
- Mirror



What do these things tell you about me?  
Take a minute to write a brief description.



GOAL!



## Ms. Sonnier's still life



- UL Binder = school has always been a way of life for me
- Snake Plant = I love cultivating things and learning about life
- Statue of Greek Goddess, Athena = the goddess of wisdom, strategy, courage, art, & more!
- Other mythological creatures (mermaid; Pegasus) = I've always had a strong imagination and a love for the magic of fantasy and fiction
- Golden Apple = I come from a long line of teachers and this is a symbol of who I am
- Paperweight = I love words! Writing is a strength and a refuge
- Pencils = I love words! Writing is a strength and a refuge
- Keepsake Jar = I'm sentimental and love the poetry of things
- Mirror = I believe self-reflection is key to growing and learning

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## Create a Still Life:

Now it is time for you to create your still life. Remember to look for objects that signifies something of importance to you. These items will provide us with a quick glimpse of who you are. If you're not at home, use a picture already in your phone.

You will have 10 minutes to locate at least 5 items that help to define who you are and take a still life picture of them. This is kind of like a selfie without yourself in it.



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The next step is to take the still life that you captured and translate it into a 100 word "written selfie" describing who you are. Take a look at this example:

Who is Amanda Himel?

As my family evolves, I grow because they are my cornerstone. Not a single day goes by that I do not talk to my parents; they are my foundation. Now I have 3 grown children of my own and a grandson who are all the center of my world. To make sure I make lots of memories with them, I enjoy spending time cooking and taking long road trips with my family. I also have a deep-rooted passion for teaching and want to make a difference and inspire the next generation. This is where my leadership and organizational skills shine.

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Now that you have your still life, it is time to write a 100 word memoir about yourself using the items in your still life.

**Just some things to remember:**

1. Needs to be exactly 100 words.
2. Should be a factual summary about you
3. Short written “selfie” that serves as a sketch of who you are.

**15:00**

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## 11 elements you should include in your college application essay:

1. Write about yourself.
2. Focus on one facet of yourself.
3. Tell a good story.
4. Keep it real.
5. Present yourself in the best light.
6. Include information not elsewhere in your application.
7. Leverage your native culture, traditions, and experiences.
8. Research what you write.
9. Tell the truth.
10. Diversify your vocabulary.
11. Check your grammar and spelling.

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The following Essay topic is from the 2020-2021 Common APP list:

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Now go back to your 100 word memoir and break it down into topics for your paragraphs.





Here is an example of how you can break down you 100 word memoir:



Who is Amanda Himel?

Paragraph 1

As my family evolves, I grow because they are my cornerstone. Not a single day goes by that I do not talk to my parents; they are my foundation. Now I have 3 grown children of my own and a grandson who are all the center of my world. To make sure I make lots of memories with them, I enjoy spending time cooking and taking long road trips with my family. I also have a

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

deep-rooted passion for teaching and want to make a difference and inspire the next generation. This is where my leadership and organizational skills shine.

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 5

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Let's start the writing process with a prewriting strategy that helps to organize your thoughts.

Today, you will complete an outline for your college application essay. Essentially, your outline is going to map out your essay and assist you in publishing a coherent final draft.

Start your outline with a strong thesis or claim. Then use the topics from your 100 word memoir to organize and add details for your body paragraphs. Make sure that you end with a strong clincher.



**WRITING**

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Here is a  
glimpse at  
how you could  
start your  
Outline:



Yes



- I. The central elements that provide a true glimpse of my roots are a loving family, making memories, challenging career, inspiring others, and growing as a leader.
- II. Loving family
  - A. Is always evolving which allows me to grow
  - B. Brothers are my closest friends
  - C. Parents are my rock
  - D. Children and grandchildren are the center of my life
- III. Making memories
  - A. Cooking as a family
  - B. Passing down family history and recipes
  - C. Taking long road trips as a family
- IV. Challenging career
  - A. Being a role model
  - B. Helping students express themselves through writing
  - C. Building lifelong readers
- V. Inspiring others
  - A. "Be the change you want to see"
  - B. Never give up, failure is an opportunity to learn
- VI. Growing as a leader
  - A. Organization
  - B. Helping others to realize their potential
  - C. Problem-solving
- VII. There are many layers to who I am; but, it is important to remember that I am still evolving and growing.

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During the last 25 minutes, create an outline for your College Scholarship/ Application Essay.



YOU GOT THIS!!!

25:00

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Now it is time to upload all of your finished artifacts to the Google Drive:

1. Still Life Photo
2. 100 word memoir (annotated)
3. Scholarship/ Application Essay Outline

