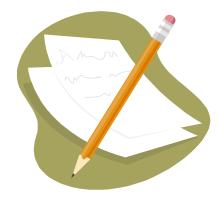
### **Memoirs**

A memoir is a type of autobiographical expression in which the narrator describes a significant event.

## INTRODUCTION

- The introduction to your memoir should grab the reader's attention by using a narrative lead
- The story starts in the middle of the action.
- Setting, characters, and conflict should be revealed in the beginning.



### Introduction to Narrative Leads...

- The lead should describe an <u>interesting</u> action or thought.
- The lead establishes the direction your writing will take.
- A good lead grabs the reader's attention and refuses to let go.



## **Narrative Leads**

- Action: A main character is doing something interesting.
- Dialogue: A character or characters are speaking.
- Reaction: A character is thinking.
- Hook: An alarming detail that will grab any reader's attention
- Incident: The narrator implies that an unpleasant event has occurred.
- Character: The narrator inserts curiosity about a character.

## **Narrative Lead: Action**

 I gulped my milk, pushed away from the table, and bolted out of the kitchen, slamming the broken screen door behind me.
I ran to our dock as fast as my legs could carry me. My feet pounded on the old wood, hurrying me toward my dad's voice. "Ryan!" he bellowed again.

# **Narrative Lead: Dialogue**

"Ryan! Get down here on the double!" Dad bellowed. His voice sounded far away.

"Dad?" I hollered. "Where are you?" I squinted through the screen door but couldn't see him.

"I'm down on the dock. MOVE IT. You're not going to believe this," he replied.

## **Narrative Lead: Reaction**

• I couldn't imagine why my father was hollering for me at 7:00 in the morning. I thought fast about what I might have done to get him so riled. Had he found out about the way I talked to my mother the night before when we got to camp and she asked me to help unpack the car? Did he discover the fishing reel I broke last week? Before I could consider a third possibility, Dad's voice shattered my thoughts.

## **Narrative Lead: Hook**

 My name is Francis Joseph Tremenari and I have just returned to Philadelphia. The war is over and I have lost half of my face.

## **Narrative Lead: Incident**

• This is a story I would rather not tell. It is a stick caught in my throat, gagging me, choking its way up, and now I'm stuck with it. I don't want to tell it, but Hirsch says I must, and Hirsch is my doctor. He says there is healing in telling, telling even the worst. But what he doesn't understand is that I don't want to get well. So, there, now I've said it.

### **Narrative Lead: Character**

• The year started out pretty smooth. Probably would have ended up that way, too, if Becky had stayed around or if I hadn't quit the football team and made myself look like the jerk of the century, though I still say quitting was the only thing I could do, and I wouldn't change that.