

Writing Task Chapter 2

I selected the six-word memoir activity for 10th-grade English learners because it is both imaginative and easy to engage with. Many students learning English find lengthy writing tasks daunting, but this exercise allows them to concentrate on choosing words, expanding their vocabulary, and constructing sentences in a more digestible format. By limiting students to six words, they are encouraged to carefully consider meaning and choose precise language, which aligns directly with grade-level English Core Standards, such as using words and phrases effectively and writing for various purposes. To make this activity work for students whose first language is not English, I will first introduce the concept of a memoir and provide both long and short examples. Before asking students to write, I will model the skill, demonstrating how to brainstorm ideas and how to reduce a sentence to six words. This scaffolding supports English learners by showing them the process step by step.

The concepts I need to teach are:

1. What a memoir is (personal story/reflection).
2. How word choice can show meaning.
3. How to edit writing to meet the six-word limit.

The primary skill I will model and practice is summarizing and condensing ideas into fewer words. This is an essential academic skill, as students often need to paraphrase and summarize in school. This activity also supports speaking and listening skills. After writing, students will share their six-word memoirs with a partner or the class, practicing oral communication and explaining meaning. In short, I chose this activity because it encourages self-expression, creativity, and precision with language. It gives students ownership of their writing, builds confidence, and shows them that even in just six words, their voices and stories matter.

Six-Word Memoir Activity

Objective

You will write a six-word memoir about yourself. A *memoir* is a short story or reflection about your life. In this activity, you will capture your thoughts and feelings in only six words.

Step 1: What is a Memoir?

A memoir is a personal story about an important part of your life. It is written in first person.

('I,' 'me,' 'my') and expresses your experience.

Example (long memoir):

When I moved to a new school, I felt nervous, but I learned to make new friends.

Step 2: What is a Six-Word Memoir?

A six-word memoir is a story told in **only six words**. It is short, but it has meaning.

- Books are home, words my friends.
- Lost my phone, found my freedom.
- Dreaming big, working hard, never stopping.

Step 3: Brainstorm Ideas

- Your hobbies or interests (music, sports, games, reading)
- Your personality (funny, shy, brave, creative)
- An important memory or feeling
- Your future dreams or goals

Step 4: Write Your Six Words

- Choose your strongest ideas.
- Put them together in exactly six words.

- Check grammar, spelling, and word choice.

Name:

Date:

Six-Word Memoir Writing Worksheet

Due Date: October 5th, 2025

Objective:

To practice creative self-expression and precise word choice by writing a memoir in exactly six words.

Instructions

1. Read what a memoir is and how a six-word memoir works.
2. Look at the examples below.
3. Brainstorm words and ideas that describe you, your interests, or your memories.
4. Write one six-word memoir about yourself.
5. Check that you used exactly six words and that your grammar/spelling is correct.
6. Be ready to share your six-word memoir with a classmate.

Example

- a. Books are home, words my friends.
- b. Lost my phone, found my freedom.
- c. Dreaming big, working hard, never stopping.

Prompt / Task

Write a six-word memoir about yourself or something you enjoy. Think about your personality, hobbies, important memories, or your future dreams. Use exactly six words to tell your story.

Guidelines / Requirements

- Your memoir must have exactly six words.
- Use correct grammar and spelling.
- Choose words that are meaningful and specific.

- Make sure your memoir connects to your life or interests.

Write your six-word memoir below:
