

Writing About You

You just wrote about yourself and how a certain event changed your life. It is fun to learn about people this way. There are many reasons people write or talk about themselves. Writing your story is a way to let your children know about the way you lived. Telling your story is a way to document history. It lets people know what it was like during your lifetime. Many books and movies are made about people's lives. Have you ever read a book about someone's life? Have you ever seen a movie about someone's life? Do you know about Cesar Chavez? He was a Mexican-American farm worker who helped others. *Fight in the Fields* is a movie about him. If someone else writes about your life, they are writing your **biography**. When you write a story about your own life, it is called an **autobiography**. In this lesson, you will write about something from your life. Let's get started.

Brainstorming: Coming Up with Ideas

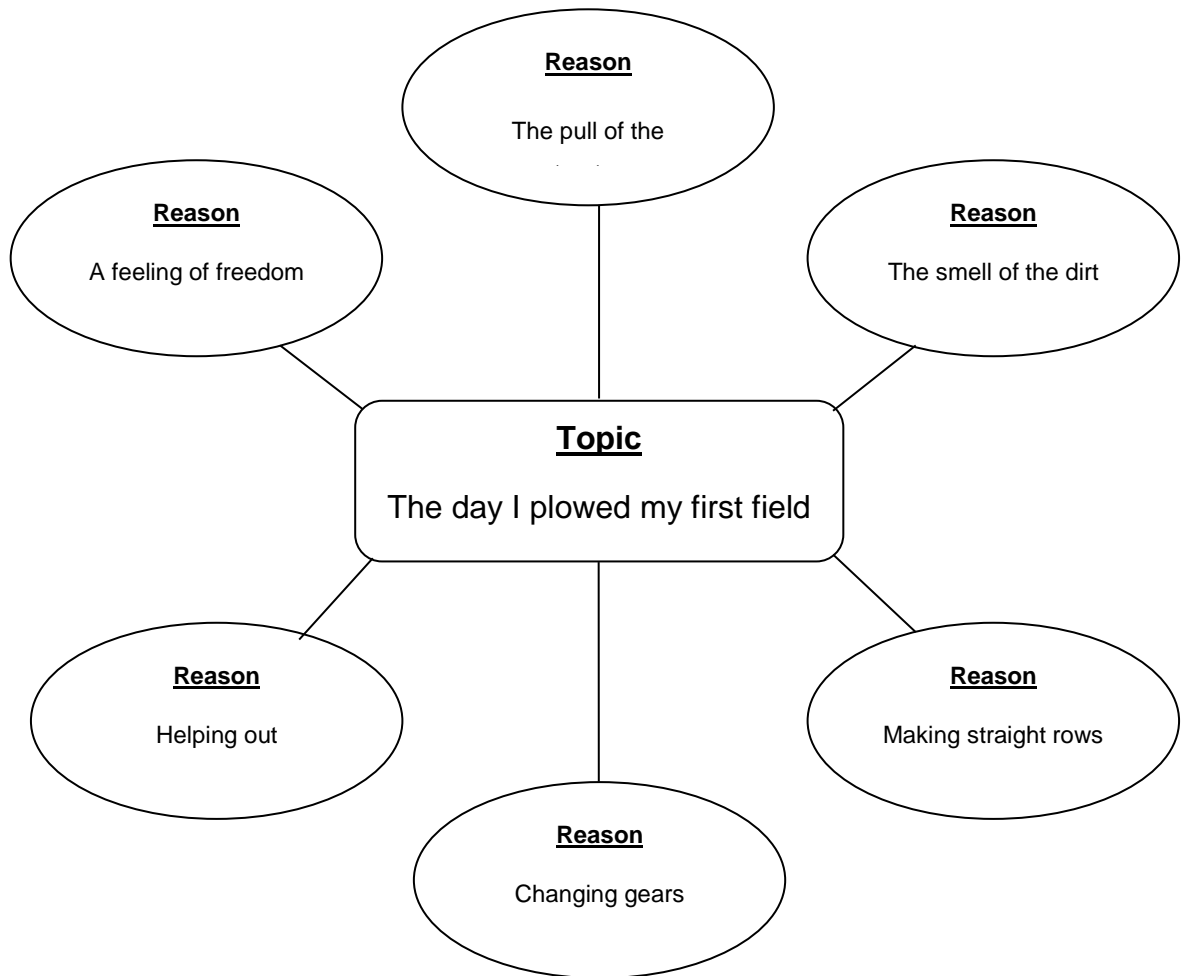
Today you will write about an event in your life. Choose an event that is important to you. Here are some ideas:

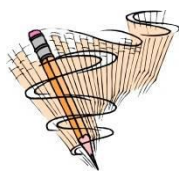
- your first day of school
- the first day you rode a bike by yourself
- the day a brother or sister was born
- your first car
- learning to play a musical instrument
- your first date
- your first day of work
- a time you moved to a different place
- pick one of your own

Once you have decided which topic to write about, you will use a graphic organizer to help come up with ideas. You will write your topic in the rectangle and your reasons in the circles.

This is called a graphic organizer. It helps you organize your thoughts.

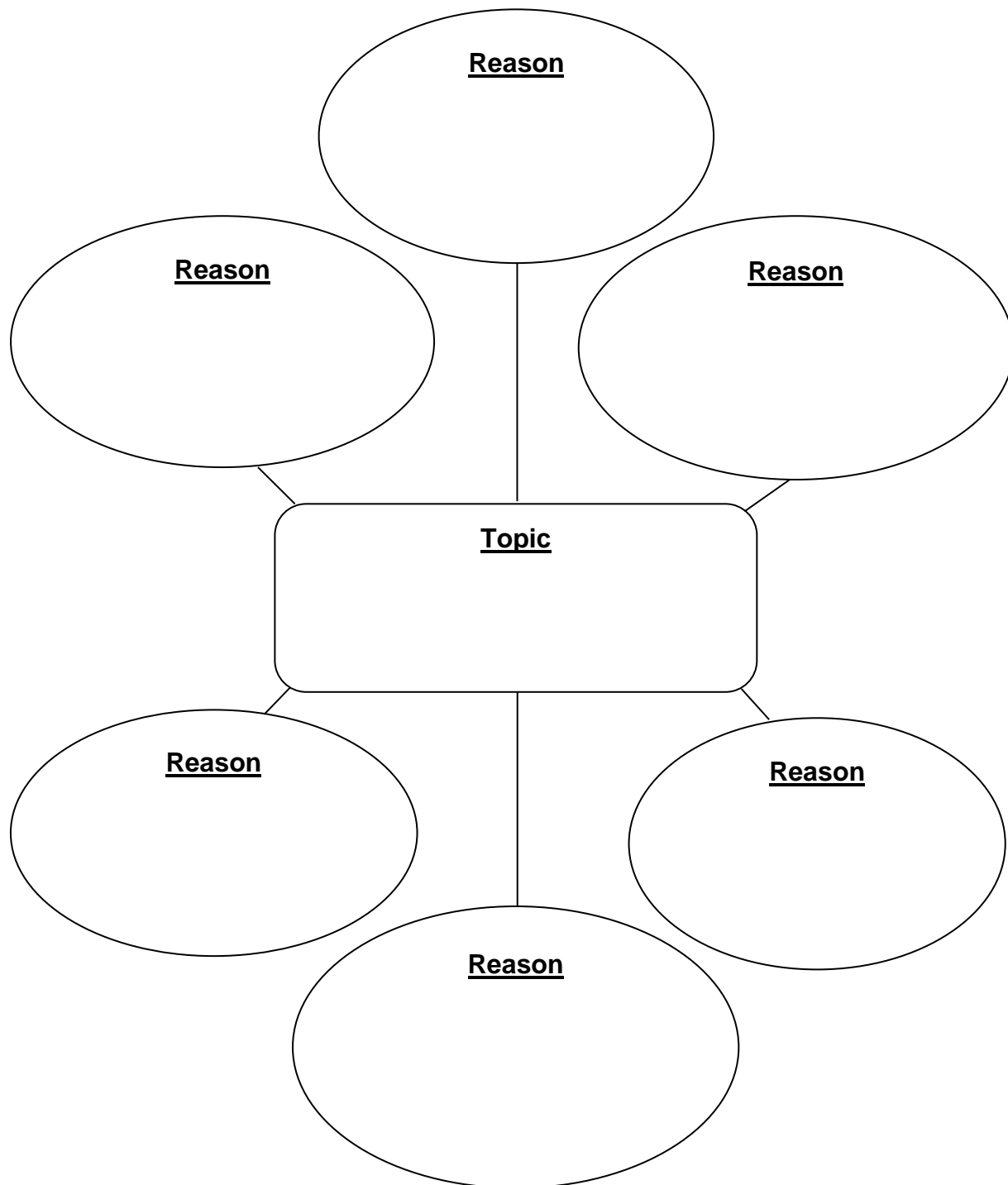
Here is an example:





Your Turn

Write your topic in the rectangle. List the reasons why that day was important to you in the circles.



Writing an Essay

The Opening: Paragraph One

When you write about yourself, you are the **narrator**. That means you are the person telling the story. How would you start to tell someone a story about your life? It doesn't have to be hard. Think about when you are talking with a friend. Think of your friend as your **audience**. You

probably would say something like, "The first time I plowed a field was an important day to me." In this exercise, you will write three sentences about your topic.

If you pretend that you are telling this to a friend, your writing will have your **voice**. *Voice* is the way you make your readers feel and the way your paper sounds when you read it aloud. Does it sound like the way you speak? Will your writing be funny? Sad? Angry?

Here is an example:

It was an important day when I plowed my first field. My mom and dad owned a small farm. We planted crops every spring and one year my dad asked me to help. I loved it. I got to drive the tractor by myself. It was kind of scary because I wasn't used to driving it or the way it pulled. I really enjoyed trying to make straight rows. Helping my dad out was important to me. I was proud of myself after I plowed that field.



Check it Out!



Hey, What's the Big Idea in the [Reading on the Move](#) lesson series can also help you with writing your story.

Find it on the Internet at

www.migrant.net/migrant/publications/index.htm



Your Turn

On the lines below, you will write at least three complete sentences about your topic.

1. Answer the question: What was an important day in your life?
2. Give one reason why this day was important to you.
3. Tell how you felt about the day.

Remember:
Try using adverbs and adjectives (words that describe things or actions) to make your writing interesting.

Great job! You have finished your first paragraph. Your first paragraph of writing is called an *introduction* or an *opening*. It lets your audience know what you will be writing about.

The Body: Paragraph Two

In the second paragraph, you will tell why this day was important. Write at least three sentences about the reason you listed in your first paragraph. Use details to help the reader understand why this was important to you.

Details help the reader create a picture in his mind. For example, if you write the word *flower*, your reader can pick any flower to think about. What flower are you thinking about right now? _____

If you want your reader to think of a special flower, then write the word *daisy*, or *sunflower*, or *rose*. Now the reader is thinking of the same flower you are.



Hint: Using details that make people think about the five senses—smell, touch, taste, sound, sight—makes your writing interesting to read. Use words that make people smell, feel, taste, hear, or see what you are describing.

Also use people's names. Instead of saying, "My sister and I went to the store," you could write "My sister, Maria, and I went to the store." It is good to add the detail of your sister's name. Now if a family member is reading what you wrote, they will know which sister went with you.

Here is an example:

Driving our small, red Farmall® tractor was the most exciting thing I did. I had ridden with dad many times, but this time he put me in the big driver's seat. I got to sit behind the huge, black wheel and steer the tractor through the field. One of the hardest things was learning how to change the gears. I had to step on the clutch and then change the gear and then let the clutch up. I jerked the tractor several times. Although I tried hard to keep the tractor straight, that jerking made my rows crooked.



Your Turn

Write at least three sentences about the reason you listed in your first paragraph. Don’t forget to add details like names of people, descriptions, or important information.

Lined writing area for the second paragraph, consisting of 13 horizontal lines.

Remember:
Use words that make people smell, hear, feel, taste, and see.

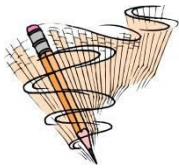
Yay! You have finished your second paragraph.

The Conclusion: Paragraph Three

The final paragraph is called the conclusion. It ties your story together. It lets the reader know the story is over.

Here is an example:

In conclusion, one of the most important days in my life was the first day I plowed a field. I enjoyed driving the tractor. The best part of the day, however, was spending time with my dad.



Your Turn

On the lines below you will write your conclusion.

1. Your first sentence should remind your reader that this was an important day to you.
2. Your conclusion should start with a word to show that your essay is coming to an end. Here are some words to choose from: *Finally, So, To conclude.*
3. Remind the reader of the reason this day was important. Remind your reader how you felt about it.

Congratulations, you have finished writing a story about a day in your life.

Write On! Life's Important Events

Essay Writing Checklist

- I have three separate paragraphs: an opening, a body, and a conclusion.
- I use capital letters when needed.
- I use proper punctuation.

Writing Traits Scored in this Lesson

	Great Job 5 points	Almost There 3 points	Keep Working 1 point
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a consistent tone. • The audience wants to read more. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tone is fairly consistent. • It could be made more interesting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tone is unclear and inconsistent. • The piece is not interesting to read.
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences are complete. • Punctuation and capitalization are used correctly. • Spelling is correct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences are complete. • Capital letters and periods are used. • Spelling is mostly correct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences run together. • Punctuation and capitalization are inconsistent. • Several words are misspelled.

Words to Know

biography: a story that someone writes about another person's life

autobiography: a story a person writes about his/her own life

narrator: the person telling the story

audience: the people who will read what you wrote

voice: word choice and tone that gives the writing its own personality

rough draft: the first copy of a piece of writing

