

**Lesson Title: Public Autobiography<sup>1</sup>**

**Lesson Objectives:**

- Students will write their short autobiographical essay, highlighting their “public experiences.”

**Curricular Connections:** Language Arts (creative writing, descriptive writing, mechanics), Social Studies (exploring relationship between self and community)

<b>Duration of Activity:</b>	50 minutes, can be more sessions
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<b>Supplies Needed:</b>	• none
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<b>Age Range:</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade and above
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**Before you begin:**

- A. It may be a good idea to do the exercises that help students start to think about their lives chronologically and publicly. See My Timeline ([www.publicachievement.org/TeacherGuide/Lessons/TimeLine.pdf](http://www.publicachievement.org/TeacherGuide/Lessons/TimeLine.pdf))

**Activity 1:**

- A. Public Private Activity:

**Activity 2:**

- A. Describe autobiography as a form and genre to students
- B. Students list important experiences or moments in their lives where they interacted with the public or discovered that they were interested in things that involved others.
- C. Based on list, students create outline for autobiography.
- D. Write autobiography
- E. Edit (could use peer editing)

**Reflection Assignment:**

1. Was it difficult to put your “public life” down on paper? Describe what was hard about it?
2. Did the process of writing lead you to think of new items that weren’t on your original brainstorm list?
3. Were you surprised that you have a “public life”?

**Assessment:**

1. Standard assessment of narrative writing.

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<sup>1</sup> Developed by Roudy Hildreth, University of Minnesota.