

# Magazine Magic *(cont.)*

## Teacher Guide

### Article Six: *Autobiographical Incident*

Students are required to write about a personal experience that is significant and memorable. Often this will explain how they became involved with an interest, hobby, or subject. Included in this, they are to describe a scene which will include remembered feelings, reflections, and relationships. Students will specifically explain about the chosen events that have led up to the significance of their magazine choice.

Have students define autobiography. Students will usually want to volunteer openly and share events in their lives that led up to their magazine choice. Encourage them to share information about their hobbies. Include all discussion, which should generate many student ideas.

Using the brief student sample provided on page 128 (Notice the challenge section following the sample) or an autobiography that has been read by the class, read aloud and discuss why this particular autobiography was written.

Ask students to identify the key elements of their autobiographies that should be included in their writing.

#### Sample Key Autobiographical Elements

- Remembering childhood events
- Being taught by someone
- Learning something by doing
- Learning something by reading about it and following the directions
- Participating in a competition
- Being involved in family tradition
- Learning at school and desiring to excel
- Participating in a popular activity or trend that many students enjoy

Hand out the autobiographical incident prewriting guide on page 127 as an outline for students. Using the overhead projector or the chalkboard, write a topic sentence about a specific interest. Show how to use sequence as the students start writing about the beginning of their theme. Walk the students through the steps of writing an autobiography without using the word “then” to begin each sentence. (Devote a few minutes to suggesting other transitional words and phrases that show sequence.) The conclusion should express some thoughts about the future impact this hobby and/or interest will have on the writer. After the students have completed their notes in the prewriting guide, they should write the rough drafts in their spiral notebooks.

Continue to model proofreading. Encourage vivid language and action verbs.

# Magazine Magic *(cont.)*

## Teacher Guide

### Article Six: *Autobiographical Incident (cont.)*

#### Autobiographical Incident Prewriting Guide

##### I. Introduction

A. Begin with a topic sentence that gives personal background experience.

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Give examples that support the topic sentence.

1. Example One: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Example Two: \_\_\_\_\_

C. These examples can be developed with a paragraph for each—for example:  
Personal experiences—How did you personally choose this topic?

\_\_\_\_\_

Family influences—Did family members influence your choice?

\_\_\_\_\_

Friends—Do you participate with your friends?

\_\_\_\_\_

Hobby—Will this activity or hobby continue into a more serious interest?

\_\_\_\_\_

**II. The Body of the Autobiographical Incident:** Describe vivid memories of feelings and reflections that stand out.

A. People: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Events: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Dialogue: \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Conclusion:** Write how importantly the incident affected your life.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Expand this outline into why you chose this magazine theme, and write your rough draft in your spiral notebook.

# Magazine Magic *(cont.)*

## Teacher Guide

### Article Six: *Autobiographical Incident (cont.)*

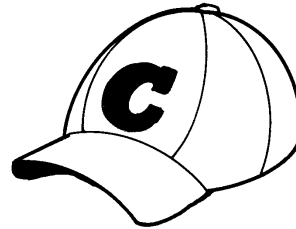
#### Student Sample: “How I Became Me”

Sometimes as I walk down the street or while I’m shopping at the local supermarket, I may get one or two people (most likely in need of a job) who ask me how I made *Baseball Magazine*. They usually go on to tell me how their horrible last boss fired them, and explain that they’re really such good writers. But getting back to the original question, this is what I tell them.

“I’ve grown up in a family that loves baseball. I live, eat, and breathe baseball.”

I also like to write. Using the words of probably every father (but especially mine), I say, “Always find a job you like to do. If you don’t like a particular subject, don’t try to get a job that requires the thing you dislike. Don’t take that job.”

I decided to have a job that combined my love for writing and my love for baseball. The result is *Baseball Magazine*. *Baseball Magazine* is now on its 146th issue and has turned out to be quite a success. In fact, it was named the best sports-related magazine last year. *Baseball Magazine* has a flame, and I hope it keeps burning brightly.



### Challenge

- A. In the space below, see if you can note how many of the required elements of the prewriting guide are included in the above autobiographical incident.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. In the space below, see if you can add any of the required elements of the prewriting guide which the author seemed to omit.