

Writing from Experience

Many writers use their own life experience as the basis for their writing. Fill in the outline below with examples from your own life. Try to be as detailed as possible—your answers will be the framework for your essay.

Teachers Who Have Influenced Me:

1. Name: _____

Personality Traits: _____

2. Name: _____

Personality Traits: _____

3. Name: _____

Personality Traits: _____

Personal Notes: _____

Classes I've Taken:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personal Notes: _____

Books I've Read in My Class:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personal Notes: _____

School Trips I've Taken:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personal Notes: _____

Extracurricular School Activities I've Been Involved In:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Personal Notes: _____

Creativity
is drawn
from
experience

- Mark Twain based the town of St. Petersburg in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* on his boyhood home of Hannibal, Missouri. Many of the characters and events in the books are based on real-life experiences.
- In *The Call of the Wild*, Jack London vividly depicts harsh environmental conditions in order to portray man's never-ending struggle with nature.
- John Steinbeck used fiction as a means of portraying the social injustices of his time, especially in his novels *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*.
- Zora Neale Hurston set her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in Eatonville, Florida, the town where she grew up.
- Elie Wiesel based *Night* on his experiences in a concentration camp during World War II.

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