*Practice using the heading here!*

*BioPoem*

During the next several days in class, you will be creating a BioPoem, which, simply, is a poem about your life. While writing it, you will also be practicing the writing process. When we are done, you will each have a unique composition about who you are and maybe even who you want to be.

1. (Prewriting)—The first step to a great biopoem, or almost any writing, is great ideas. For this particular assignment, you will need to list at least 45 specific events or qualities from your life. These can be about anything from your character or life, from shopping at Target to making a winning point to how you really love unicorns to spewing milk out of your nose in fifth grade. The key is being specific! Also, each item on your list should only be a word or two long, not complete sentences.
2. (More prewriting/Organizing)—After your list is complete, now you get to choose your best ideas. Read down your list and highlight the 15 or so that you think would make the best sentences for your biopoem. It’s okay if they are about completely different events; in fact, they should be.
3. (First draft)—On a new sheet of paper, start working with words to describe each event in a single, complete sentence. You can start with any one you want; remember, this is only a first draft, and you can make changes later. Some things to keep in mind:
   1. Limit how many times you start your sentences with “I”. More variety in how you start sentences will make your work better! For example, instead of “I like Fritos,” maybe you want to write something more like “The crispy, corny goodness of Fritos covers my fingers with salt and my belly with happiness.”
   2. Limit how many times you use boring verbs such as the following: am, is, are, was, were, being, been, be, have, has, had, go, going, got, went.
   3. You can combine similar or related things if you want into single sentences.
   4. Remember good voice! You want it to sound like you and have interesting words!
4. (Revising)--Once you have your sentences written, go back over them to see how you can enhance your word choice and sentence fluency. We will do some specific work on sentences when we revise.
5. (Revising)—Decide what order you would like your sentences to follow in your poem. It can be chronological (time-ordered) or whatever makes sense to you. Number them.
6. (Revising)—Next, divide the sentences into lines so that when you type it, it will look like a poem instead of lines that go all the way across a page. Typically, the lines of a poem end with a vivid verb or noun. We will look at some examples in class.
7. (Second draft)—On a fresh sheet of paper, or on a computer, write your second draft. Have your sentences in the order you decided, and have it in lines like you marked.
8. (Proofreading or editing)—Look over your poem. Check the spelling and punctuation. It should, by the way, be punctuated and capitalized just like sentences would be.
9. (Final copy)—Finally, you will print a copy, and we will make them all pretty in class!
10. (Publishing)—We will post the biopoems on the walls of the classroom for everyone to enjoy!