Witness to History – Personal Narrative

**Requirements**: Write a story about an event (or series or events) that has affected you deeply and shaped who you are. Share as deeply as you choose, knowing you will share the story with one classmate and Ms. Gilpin.

* 500-700 words
* MLA format
* Rough draft (20 Process points) due 5 June (37.2)
* Final draft (50 Culminating points) due 12 June (38.2)
* Turnitin.com
* Graded on organization, language, and meeting requirements

**Process:**

1. Brainstorm events
2. Free write for 5 mins
3. Answer “First Draft” Questions
4. Consider which details are the most important from your free write list.
5. Make an outline for your story
6. Begin writing the story – first draft, edits, then final draft.

Brainstorm Events

**My event:**

Brainstorm: Most important aspects of my event

**Witness to History Story Outline –** You can write phrases, incomplete sentences, or full paragraphs. Whatever works for you, but it is essential that you complete the outline so that your story has a plot line.

**Beginning:** Context – where are you? What time of day? What big event begins the story?  
**Transition** - minor detail to transition from one event to the other.  
**Middle:** What event brings the story to the “climax” of the story arch?  
**Transition**- minor detail to transition from one event to the other.   
**End:** What event closes your story?   
**Transition** - minor detail to transition from one event to the other.  
**Lesson** – What do you want the reader to know about this experience? Why write down all the words?

1. Beginning:
   1. Context
   2. Event(S)
   3. Transition detail
2. Middle
   1. Event
      1. Details
   2. Event
      1. Details
   3. Transition detail
3. End
   1. Events
      1. Details
   2. Transition Detail
4. Lesson – (Tied into the rest of the story. What you want your reader to gain from reading the story)