

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.