

"Where I'm From"

Prewriting Questions

Goal: Keep your writing hand moving across the paper. Lift your pen/cil only when you need to dot i's, cross t's, and make spaces between words! You'll have about five minutes per question.

Aim to provide specific examples, memories, and details to show rather than tell the experiences you describe.

Whenever possible, record images, feelings, or sensations, rather than make an attempt to "tell all about something!"

- 1) What is most important to your family?
- 2) How would you describe your house? (big, small, messy, wooded, clean, calm, chaotic, noisy, quiet, orderly...) Try to show a place or moment in it.
- 3) In what place do you feel safest? What does this location look like, feel like, smell like?
- 4) Here's a popular quote: "We don't remember days, we remember moments." Sketch with words two or three of the most memorable moments from your life in years 0 through 5.
- 5) Sketch with words two or three of the most memorable moments from your life in years 6 through 10.
- 6) Now sketch two or three from your life in years 11 through the present!
- 7) Here's another quote: "Life is not measured in the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath." Identify a few of these moments in your life. They can be either positive or negative.
- 8) What do you know about your extended family? (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc) Are you a close-knit group? Do extended family members live nearby or far away How does this affect your relationship with them?
- 9) What family stories have you heard again and again? Why do you think these events are important? What object(s) might represent or symbolize each of these events?
- 10) Has anyone in your family (including you) suffered serious illness or been seriously hurt? (disease, broken leg, accident, etc) Is this an important event in your life?
- 11) What do you or your family members collect? Where are these kept? Why are they important? (family treasures? certain family picture? repeated action or activity?)
- 12) What are your parents/guardians like? (strict, easygoing, loud, calm) What do they want for you? How well does this match what you want for yourself? How well does your family know YOU?

