



## IDAHO WRITERS GUILD SCORE SHEET: MEMOIR FIRST CHAPTER

	0/1	2	3	4	5
<b>Originality</b>	Lacks originality and can even be described as boring or poorly written.	Lacks the hint of conflict or character motivations to make a good memoir. Contains too much telling.	Shows an acceptable level of originality but does not feel inspired or exceptional. Can be described as a "good" beginning for a memoir.	Is engaging but could show more of the reason for the story and the character's motivation. Is interesting, but could be improved.	An immediately compelling story that captures the attention of the reader, and reveals a character that is unique and interesting.
<b>Grammar/Punctuation/Verb Tense</b>	Major grammar and punctuation errors throughout. Several verb tense shifts. Reader had difficulty focusing on the submission due to the errors.	Some grammatical and punctuation errors that detracted from the quality of the submission. Portions of submission switched verb tense.	Acceptable use of grammar and punctuation. Still occasionally misused both grammar and punctuation. Infrequent switches in verb tense.	Virtually no errors throughout submission. Smooth reading, errors are not distracting to the average reader. Minimal verb tense mistakes.	Excellent use of grammar and punctuation throughout the submission. No verb tense switches.
<b>Dialogue</b>	Unnatural dialogue that is robotic, dull, wooden, or otherwise distracting to the reader. Overuse of dialect and/or foreign language and unfamiliar idioms. Dialogue detracted from submission and made for a difficult read.	Dialogue that lacked dynamics affected the submission's overall quality, included unnatural sounds, and dialect. Dialogue upset suspension of disbelief.	Acceptable use of dialogue that is natural with few instances of bland writing.	Dialogue had a natural flow, smooth back and forth between characters, was used to portray character, and enhance the story. Minimal stilted exchanges present.	Masterful use of dialogue to enhance story quality, add to character, and advance the plot.

<b>Character</b>	Character(s) are bland and uninteresting. Limited to no depth or growth present. Character was unlikeable with no redeeming qualities in sight.	Character(s) are inconsistent or incomplete.	Character(s) are bland but showed promise of growth and an interesting arc.	Good use of character(s) throughout the piece. Solid understanding of character building and growth to draw a reader in.	Character(s) are captivating, fully developed, and hook the reader into the story.
<b>Story/Events Depicted</b>	No clear story beginning. May just feel like a description of a series of events. Nothing present to move character/reader forward. No clear theme or conflict stated.	The beginning of the memoir is incomplete or missing key elements, and therefore fractured, and does not compel the reader to want to read further.	The events are interesting, but lack originality and may feel like just another biography.	The beginning of the memoir has some originality and creative elements and even somewhat of a hook to drag the reader further, but is not extremely strong or compelling.	A solid beginning with strong hooks that cause the reader to want to read more. Gains the reader's interest right away.
<b>Description/Setting</b>	Setting details are missing or incomplete, or descriptions are flat and unimaginative. The reader is not drawn into the setting of the submission at all.	Setting details are sparse and unimaginative, making it hard for the reader to develop a sense of the place where the story happens.	Setting details are present but lack depth, continuity, or sensory detail. The reader is not fully immersed in the setting of the story.	The setting adds depth to the story and provides a good backdrop, but it is not integral to the story and does not move the plot forward or help with character development.	The setting is an integral part of the story, character arc, and/or plot. It is well developed, described in detail, including all of the senses, and adds richness, depth, and value to the submission.

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