Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Hour\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part I: Choosing a Seed**

* Needs to be a small moment (not a trip to Cedar Point, but the first time you rode on a roller coaster)
* Needs to be meaningful
* Need to be able to answer “What did you learn from this experience?” “What lessons do you want o communicate by writing about this topic?”

Take one of your Events/Experiences from your **What Will I Write About?** tool. Create a cluster, brainstorm web or list on your chosen seed identifying the people, places or things you associate with your topic. Identify the SMALL MOMENT.

**Part II: Memorable Moment**

Keep the following in mind:

* Every event has to have a purpose.
* The memoir needs to show attitudes or feelings BEFORE, so that the reader understands the author’s learning at the end.
* The memoir needs to show the BEFORE in several parts, not just once.
* The memoir needs to show the AFTER. How did the learning change the author’s life? Why was it significant?
* Every event needs to build toward, show or explain the significance of the author’s learnings. If it isn’t doing those things it shouldn’t be included.

***Example***

**Memorable Moment: The first time I got up on a surf board**.

**Event Purpose**

1. **(before)**

Getting thrashed by the waves Shows how miserable I was

2**. (before)**

Watching others make it look so easy Shows I felt like a failure

3. **(before)**

Getting cold, deciding to go in after one more Shows I was ready to give up

try

4. **(memorable moment)**

Successfully riding first wave to the beach Shows my excitement and disbelief at success.

5. **(after)**

Staying out and continuing to surf Show how success totally changes my attitude about surfing and believing in myself.