

Senior AP English Language and Composition

Much of the course content in AP English Language and Composition involves reading and analyzing contemporary literary nonfiction. In preparation for the fall semester, read Tobias Wolff's memoir, *This Boy's Life*.

After reading the excerpted pages from Janet Burroway's *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft*, write a two to three page craft essay. It is a craft essay because you are to analyze how Wolff crafted his memoir. Focus your essay on *one* of the following terms: voice, character, or scene.

Keep in mind the way Burroway defines the memoir genre: "A memoir is a story retrieved from the writer's memory, with the writer as protagonist—the *I* remembering and commenting on the events described in the essay. Memoir tends to place the emphasis on the story, and the 'point' is likely to emerge, as it does in fiction, largely from the events and characters themselves, rather than the author's speculation."

In working on your craft essay, ask yourself how Wolff's memoir is enhanced by his effective use and/or development of either, voice, character, or scene.

Your introduction paragraph should have an identifiable thesis statement. In the body paragraphs (it doesn't matter how many you have) include several short quotations from *This Boy's Life*, as well as a few from Burroway's text. Be sure to weave these quotations into your sentences with lead-in phrases before the quote.