

Extension Task Directions

“Writers are the custodians of memory.” What does William Zinsser mean by this statement? How does this apply to the “coming-of-age” literature read in this unit? Considering all of the advice on writing from the professional writers in this unit, what lessons have you learned about your voice and style in writing?

Source	Lessons learned
Rick Riordan	
Chapter V from <i>The Elements of Style</i>	

After reading several pieces about “growing up,” write a memoir based on a real and appropriate personal experience using the techniques outlined by Zinsser, Riordan, and Strunk, White, and Kalman and captured on your quality criteria for memoir writing checklist handout.

Be sure to:

- engage and orient your reader by establishing a point of view, introducing characters, and organizing a logical sequence,
- use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses, relevant details and sensory language, and
- reveal a “universal truth.”

