MY BIG CHANGE – A MEMORY PROJECT

Recall a time in your life when you experienced an important transition (change). It could be a time associated with a specific ceremony, such as a bar or bat mitzvah or grade school graduation, or it could be an occasion that marked new skills or independence, such as losing your first tooth, writing your name for the first time, learning to ride a bicycle, or getting your first house key... any big memory that relates to a change in your life. Think about the following questions as you remember the story:

1. How old were you?
2. What was the event or occasion?
3. What did you have to do to prepare for it, if anything?
4. How did it make you feel?
5. Was anyone else involved in the story? Who was it? What role did he or she play?
6. Why was this event or occasion important?

Write the answers to the questions above with as much detail as you can remember (this does not have to be an old memory…it could be a recent event, as long as it is a transition). Once you have your notes, figure out the order of events – your dominoes – and write them out. Finally, use your dominoes to create a memory story.

Write a narrative version of your memory – tell me the story of your transition. Use descriptive language and include as much detail as possible. This is not a just a few sentences. This should be at least a page of writing.

Day one: answering the questions:

* Questions above answered with as much detail as possible.

Day two: creating your dominoes for the story

* Create 7 steps of Rising Action. Each one should be an event that leads to your Big Change, which will be the Climax of the story.
* The Climax – the Big Change – is step eight. This should be written with as much detail as possible.
* After you create your 11 steps, have another student review and edit your work. Make changes as needed, based on their feedback.

Day three and beyond: crafting the story, reviewing, editing, and rewriting into a final draft.

* Next, turn the 8 steps into an actual story. Each “domino” (rising action event) should be its own 4-5 sentence paragraph.
* When done, have a fellow student proofread your work.
* Fix the errors.
* Next, complete the story by writing the Resolution – what happened AFTER your big change (the climax). Follow the same editing procedures above.

Your final paper should be approximately 10-11 short paragraphs (4-5 sentences each):

* 7 paragraphs matching to their 7 statements of rising action
* 1 paragraph (climax) that details the big change
* 2 paragraphs that discuss the resolution – what happened after the big change occurred and how did the story end.