

Snapshot Memoir Revision Checklist

Focus & Action

- Does my memoir capture just a few minutes of time, not a whole day or event?
→ *If not, trim to the most important moment.*

Details & Word Choice

- Do I use strong, active verbs instead of “was/were”?
→ *Try swapping in action words to bring energy.*
- Are my adjectives specific and colorful?
→ *Replace vague words (like “nice,” “big”) with sharper ones.*

Dialogue

- Do I only use dialogue where it adds meaning or emotion?
→ *Cut extra talk that doesn’t move the scene forward.*

Tense

- Is my tense consistent (mostly past tense)?
→ *Use present tense only if I want extra intensity.*

Flow & Order

- Does everything happen in a clear order?
→ *Rearrange if something feels out of place.*
- Did I cut words, sentences, or details that don’t serve the moment?

Peer Review Questions

1. What part of the memoir feels the most vivid or alive to you?
2. Was there any place where you got confused or wanted more detail?
3. Does the piece stay focused on a single moment? If not, where does it wander?