

Autobiographical Incident Organizer

Crossing the Rubicon

When Julius Caesar made the decision to lead his army across the Rubicon River, he knew his life would forever be changed. Today when someone says they have “crossed the Rubicon,” it means they have made an important decision that they won’t be able to change and which will affect the rest of their life.

Recall a time in your past in which you made an important decision that has affected your life ever since. It might be choosing a friend; deciding how to spend your money; turning down cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs; or helping to make a family decision. Write about the event and tell why you feel it was a “Rubicon” for you.

Introduction/Opening Statement—The opening statement tells what you are going to write about. You can restate the prompt and add your event, or start with an action from your story.

Specific Supporting Details/Sequence Statements—The body of your composition must include a clear sequence of what happened, the setting of the event, and the reactions and feelings of the characters involved. Jot down a brief sequence of events you can expand in your composition.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Conclusion/Summary Statement—Summarize the decision you made, say whether or not you’re glad you made it, and tell why it was your “Rubicon.” Write a strong closing sentence.
