

SAMPLE TEXT: As submitted by client, prior to editing

--Previous text truncated for sample purposes--

Young girls and boys grow up with the idea that their life will be wonderful – and I was no exception. I believed that I would marry, have children and do something important with my life. My mother always said, “You are here on earth today for a reason.” I have held on to those words my entire life though I was unsure what that purpose would be.

In 1990, I was young and ready to strike out and see what life had to offer. I worked for a publishing company that long time family friends owned. I enjoyed the work and it was fulfilling. I liked working and learned quickly that strong work ethic was respected and this influenced who I would become. The culture of the publishing office was extreme stress and overachieving was the philosophy. I went from a young nineteen year old girl to a business woman within a very short time.

During this period of my life, I started dating the man who would ultimately become my husband. We were at very different places in our lives and looking back it was much like a merger of two companies. I was the high-energy savvy go getter, ready to get things done and done quickly - no excuses. He was a newly graduated doctor ready to use his skill to help and heal others. Together we were a team committed to getting his new practice up and running. I took on the task of helping build his business with enthusiasm while continuing to work at the publishing company. At the time, I thought that it would be the most difficult time in my life as I worked 70 hours a week, and struggled to stay afloat financially. I had no idea of the real journey lying in wait for me four short years down the road.

LINE EDITING SAMPLE

Young girls and boys grow up with the idea that their lives will be wonderful, and I was no exception. I believed I would marry, have children, and do something important with my life. My mother always said, “You are here on Earth today for a reason.” Although I was unsure of what that reason would be, I have held on to those words my entire life.

Comment [All Ivy1]: When used as a proper name, Earth should be capitalized. Plants grow in earth, whereas Earth is a planet, just like Venus and Jupiter.”

In 1990, though I was young, I was ready to strike out on my own and see what life had to offer me. My first job was working for a publishing company owned by longtime family friends. I enjoyed the job and found it very fulfilling. In fact, I liked working and learned quickly that a strong work ethic earned respect from others—an ideology that greatly influenced the person I would become. However, the publishing office was extremely stressful; its culture emphasized a philosophy of overachievement. I went from being a young, 19-year-old girl to a business woman within a very short time.

Comment [All Ivy2]: Changed to avoid redundant use of the word “work.”

During this time, I started dating the man who would ultimately become my husband. We were at very different places in our lives and, looking back, our relationship was like a merger of two companies. I was a savvy, high-energy go-getter, ready to get things done and done quickly—no excuses. He was a newly graduated doctor, ready to use his skills to help and heal others. Together, we were a team committed to getting his new practice up and running.

Comment [A.I.3]: I suggest further developing this aspect of your memoir. Since so much of your story is influenced by this particular job (which you refer to many times throughout the book), I feel strongly that further detail would enhance the reading experience and allow the reader to better understand your future issues with overachievement. Perhaps you could share an anecdote from your time at the firm. We need to be shown more about why and how you became the person you are today, rather than just be told.

I enthusiastically assumed the task of helping him build his business while continuing to work at the publishing company. At the time, I couldn’t imagine my life ever being more difficult. I worked 70 hours per week and still struggled to stay afloat financially. Little did I know that the real journey lay waiting for me four short years down the road.

Comment [All Ivy4]: No hyphen is necessary after words ending in “-ly.”

Comment [All Ivy5]: Lay in this context is correct as we are speaking of past years.