At your age, you have lived less than 25% of your probable life span. There is much more future ahead of you than there is past behind you.

Most people who write about their lives write from a position just the opposite of yours. Because they are in their sixties or seventies, they have lived most of their lives already. They look back when they write. They write almost entirely of the past.

You, on the other hand, can spend more time looking toward the future. Because you have so much future ahead of you, it is a good idea to think about and write about that future.

Getting started

Choose from the questions below to help you write:

1. Where would you like to live as an adult? Would you prefer a city, a town or a rural community? Would you like to live in the United States or a foreign country? Would you like to be near an ocean, the mountains or the plains? What kind of climate would you prefer?

2. How do you envision yourself making a living?

3. What kind of leisure-time activities do you think you will enjoy?

4. What kind of adult do you think you will be? Describe yourself as a neighbor, a member of the community, a spouse, a parent and a grandparent.

5. What kind of country do you think the United States will be when you are about 30 years old? How will the world be different from how it is today?

6. What problems do you see in your future? What do you think you can do about them now?

7. What looks brightest in your future?
"Some people don't find out what they want to be until they're 35. I knew when I was 4."

Mariah Carey

Think about an average day, perhaps a day like today, in fall, winter, spring or summer. Write a paragraph or two about the day — but make it an average day when you were about five years old. Where were you? Who were you with? What were you doing?

Next, write a paragraph or two about an average day when you were about ten years old.

Then write about an average day today.

Finally, look into the future and envision the person you think you might become. Write about what an average day for you might be like at each of the following ages:

- 20 years old
- 35 years old
- 60 years old
- 80 years old