"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
Eleanor Roosevelt

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?
If you are like most people, the face you show the world may disguise your true self — or tell only part of the story. Write about who you really are — your hopes, dreams, philosophies, worries, etc.

**Getting started**

Choose from the questions below to help you write:

1. What do you like to think about, read about, learn about?
2. What do you care deeply about?
3. Describe the emotional you. Are you pessimistic or optimistic by nature? How do you feel and show love, hate, joy, sorrow, satisfaction, anger, etc.?
4. What hopes or dreams do you have? What hopes and dreams have come true in your life?
5. What is your most treasured memory? Why?
6. What do you worry about?
7. What frightens you?
8. What kind of adult do you think you will become? What kind of adult would you like to become? If there is a difference between these two possibilities, explain why.