Books or stories in the historical fiction genre blend actual historical facts with fiction. The chart below describes the characteristics of the historical fiction genre.

**CHARACTERS:**
The characters all behave in realistic ways. **All** of the characters may be fictional, or **some** may be real while other are fictional. The character also may be fictitious but **based** on a person who actually lived.

**SETTING:**
The setting is considered the most important element in Historical Fiction.
- **Time:** an authentic period in history
- **Place:** a real historical place

**CONFLICT:**
The main characters are involved in a conflict or dilemma that is realistic to the time period.

**PLOT:**
The plot is based on real events that are mixed with fictional events. These events make sense to the time period and have a solution to the problem at the end.

**DESCRIPTION:**
Descriptions of the characters, events and places are very vivid. **Any historic information that may be unfamiliar to the reader is explained by the writer.**

**DIALOGUE:**
Words spoken by the characters reflect the knowledge and thoughts of the people in that time period.
Now, let’s take a look at your “First week of School” memory. Could your memory be considered a piece of historical fiction one day? Please complete the chart below.

| CHARACTERS | What do the students and teachers do that indicate our time period? What are their actions that show 2010/11? (use cell phone to call mom/dad for ride home) |
| SETTING | What elements from your first week show the time and place? (weather, early morning classes, ability to walk to school) |
| CONFLICT | What is a conflict that you wrote about that could be considered a “sign of the time”? (overbooked schedules with classes and activities) |
| PLOT | What real events did you include in your day that show the time period? (iPods, computers, cell phones) |
| DESCRIPTIONS | How could you include more descriptions to give a better picture of your first week at WJHS? |
| DIALOGUE | Did you include dialogue? If so, how does it help show thoughts/perspectives of the time period? |

1. What are two ideas that you included that are from your perspective (they are your own opinion)?

2. What is an experience that you had that may be different from others? Why might informing others about that experience be important or beneficial?