

# Kitchen Table Time Machine

Freestyle Writing Exercise: Memoir

- Explain that memoir is an essay about personal knowledge or experience. To assist students in a memoir based activity discuss favorite meals and foods with class.
- Ask students if they can think of a special time they had this meal or food. What made it special? Was it a birthday or holiday? Did someone special to them like a grandma or parent make it?
- Work with students to create a word bank for their own paragraphs by working through the five senses. Ask students to share their writing at the end of the exercise.
- Example of students writing about their favorite food can be found at <http://www.layouth.com/essay-contest-whats-your-favorite-food/>.
- Current news articles documenting the popularity of memoir can also be used during this activity to show students one of the many ways they can make a career as a writer.

The screenshot shows the LAYouth website interface. At the top, it says "the newspaper by and about teens" and "LAYouth". Below that is a search bar and the date "July 13, 2013" and "January - February 2005 Issue". The main content area features a section titled "Essay contest: What's your favorite food?" with the subtext "Winners of the essay contest describe their favorite foods." Below this is an article titled "A big bowl of Trix" by Merrit Panaligan, North HS (Torrance), which won 1st place \$50. The article includes a photo of a young woman eating cereal and a quote: "Silly rabbit! Trix are for kids!" Well if that's the case, then I guess you can call me one big kid! They say your childhood follows you around wherever you go. Sure, you might grow up and mature a little, but deep down you'll always find a way to go back to that childhood innocence you once had. My innocence consists of a gigantic...