Same Event, Two Stories

Memoir vs. biography: who tells it best?



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Which would you pick?

You want to learn about a 12-year-old's big win. Which do you read first?

A Memoir by the person who lived it

B Biography by a researcher who studied it

C Both at the same time

Vote with your hands, then explain why.

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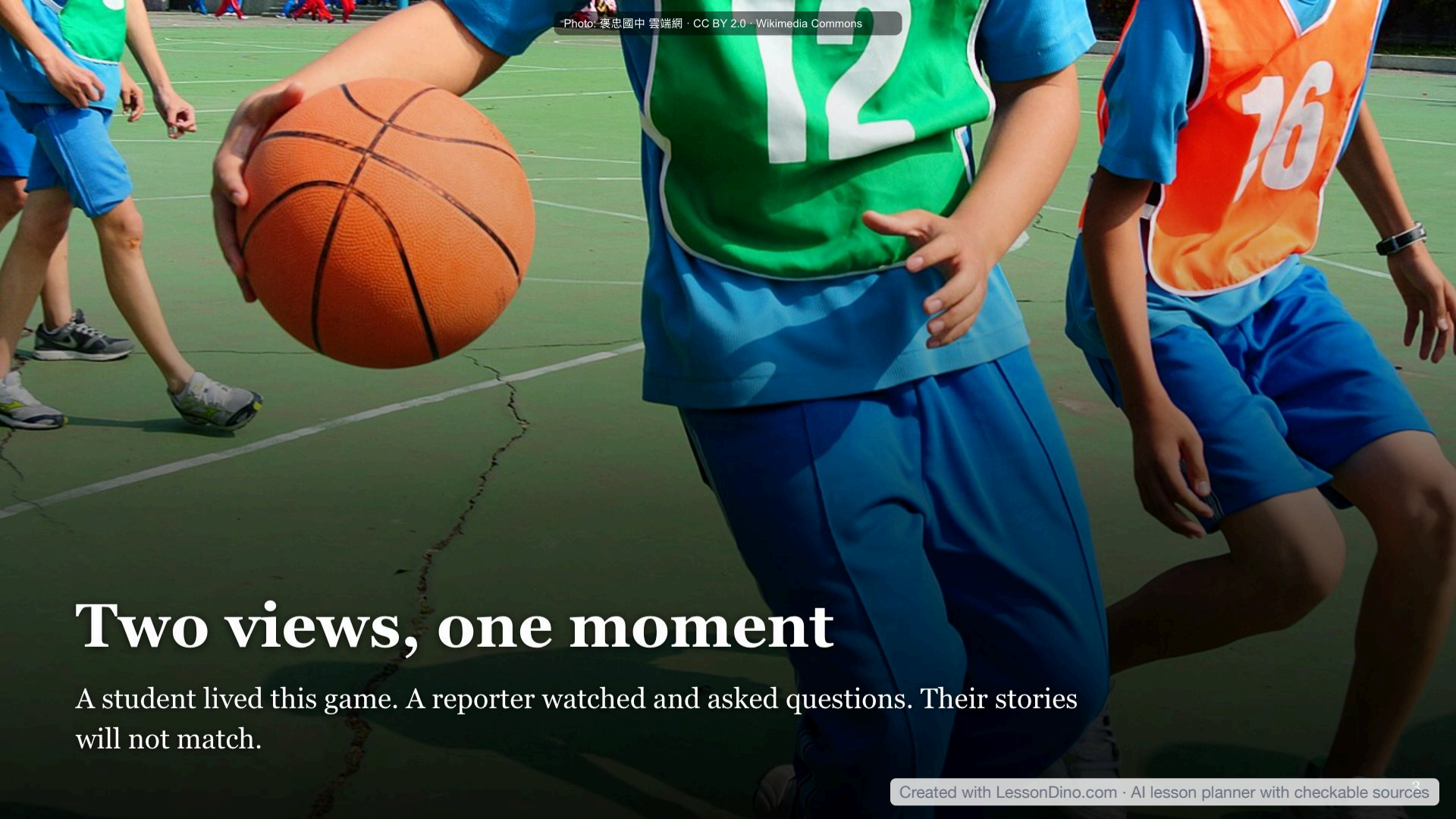


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Two views, one moment

A student lived this game. A reporter watched and asked questions. Their stories will not match.

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What to compare

Two Accounts

- Who is telling?
- What is added or left out?
- Point of view clues
- What facts stay same?
- Words and feelings

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Think, pair, share

How would your story of a fire drill differ from your principal's story of the same drill?

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Firsthand vs. secondhand



▶ 0:00 – 4:20

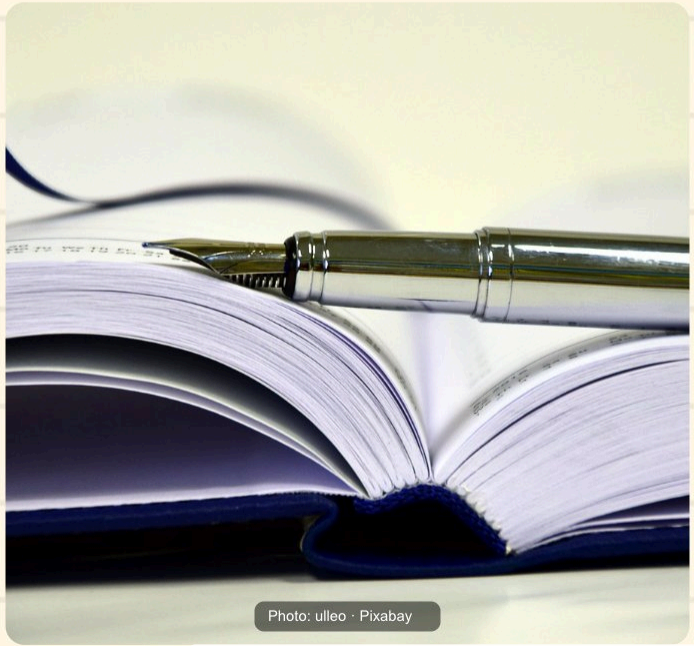
- Watch for I-voice vs he/she-voice
- Spot memory clues vs research clues

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DID YOU KNOW?

A memoir uses memory. A biography uses research.

Same life, different tools — so details and tone shift.



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Compare like a detective



▶ 0:00 – 4:14

- List what both authors agree on
- List what only one includes

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Your task

In pairs, tell the same playground game two ways, then compare.

1. Student A tells it as 'I played' - memoir voice.
2. Student B retells it as reporter - biography voice.
3. Together list 2 same facts and 2 differences.

10 min

In pairs

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DID YOU KNOW?

Small word choices can change the whole feeling.

One author writes chaotic crowd; the other writes buzzing crowd of fans.

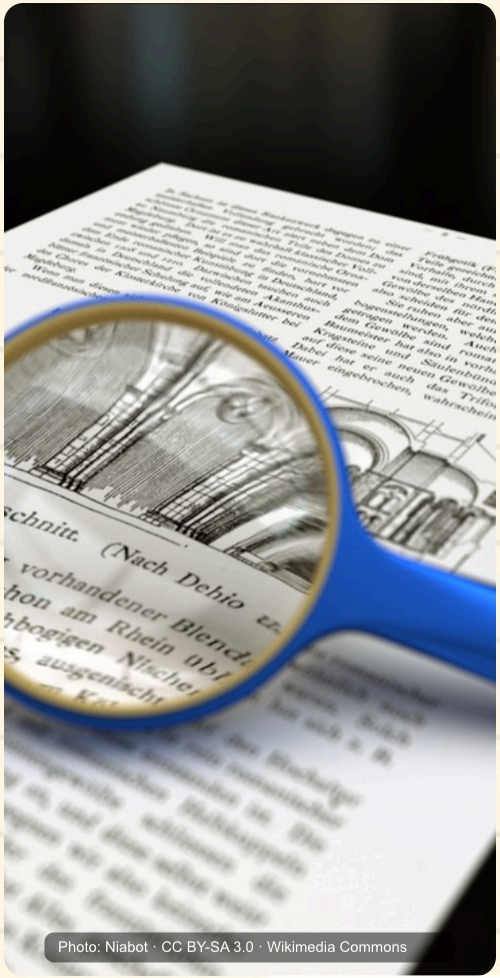


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What could this be?

Close up: two lenses on a table. How does this show two accounts?



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True or false?

A memoir is written by the person who lived the event.

A biography and a memoir of the same person always agree.

To compare, first find facts both accounts share.

Word choice never affects how a reader feels.

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