

## Life in Reverse

### PREP & PRE-WORK

#### GOALS

- Reflect on their life
- Change/undo events they had no power over
- Make a group poem

#### MATERIALS

- Saba - Westside Bound 3 : <https://youtu.be/xN23njIDet0>
- Gray Thomas -Life in Reverse : [https://youtu.be/j\\_CSzwf5ww0](https://youtu.be/j_CSzwf5ww0)
- Projector/ Smart Tv
- Paper & pencil

### WORKSHOP

Watch/read: Saba- Westside Bound 3

- Ask students to underline/ circle any particularly Chicago images that stick out to them
- Discuss the complexity of good memories and bad memories

List:

- A color that carries a specific meaning to you
- A typical smell outside in Chicago
- A slang word or phrase you grew up using
- Piece of advice, quote or saying that has stuck with you
- Word or phrase your family likes to use or say
- Name of your neighborhood savior (lenient bus driver/ candy lady/ community organizer)
- Favorite Chicago food
- Object you carry around everyday
- A word you hear often but don't know the meaning of
- Favorite corner
- Particular hairstyle you aspire to
- A question you want to know the answer to
- Clothing item popular when you were young
- Your ideal weather
- Your dream birthday present

Watch: Gray Thomas - Life In Reverse

- Ask students what their life would look like backwards
- Discuss how Gray Thomas used the device to undo addiction

Write:

- Ask students to write their life in reverse, starting from wherever they want and ending wherever they want. Encourage students who are writing from death to include all the things they want to accomplish before they die.

Read Around:

- Ask students to read their poem, then pass their poem to the left so their classmate can read it. Insist that if someone doesn't want a classmate to read their poem, then maybe it shouldn't be turned into a group poem/ LTAB poem.
- Ask students listening (even if they're reading) to write down lines they like/relate to/ sounds like what they wrote and the teammates that wrote them.
- Ask students to read around the lines and teammates they vibed with the most.

**EXPANSION PACK**

Break out into groups:

- Delegate a scribe for the group (writes down lines group agrees on)
- Share poems again, this time a stanza/paragraph at a time within their groups
- Make notes on the lines they like/ lines that remind them of what they wrote/lines that could make a good hook.
- Encourage students to find an order to their stanzas and begin writing their group piece