



Life Writers

Speculation, Inference, Imagination

Speculation is defined as an *opinion reached using incomplete information*. When you speculate, alert your reader with words and phrases such as:

- *probably*
- *almost certainly*
- *likely*
- *may have*
- *might*

Inference is *drawing conclusions from the facts at hand*. It is perfectly acceptable to study the information you have and arrive at a reasonable conclusion. Use phrases such as:

- *based on*
- *I believe*
- *I'm led to believe*
- *I suspect*

Imagination is defined as *the ability to form a picture in your mind of something that you have not seen or experienced*. It can be used in writing a factual family history as long as you let your reader know what you're doing. Use phrases such as:

- *I picture*
- *I imagine*
- *In my mind's eye*
- *I see*

Notes: _____
