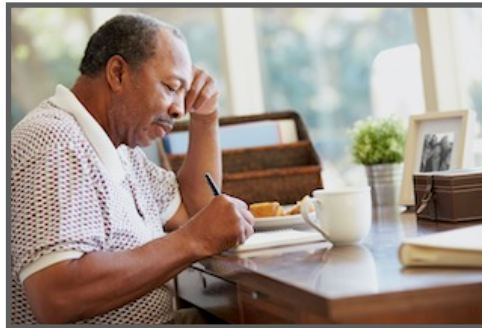


Tips for Writing Your First Memoir

*A **memoir** focuses on specific experiences that shaped the person you have become. Most often, these experiences are connected by a theme such as redemption, spirituality, self-awareness, confidence building, and so on.*

1. **Read a variety of memoirs before you start to write to get a sense of the genre.**
2. **Consider your audience and purpose:**
 - Audience—the reader
 - Just yourself
 - Family and friends
 - A wider, published audience
 - Purpose
 - Reflect
 - Persuade
 - Inform
 - A call to action
 - Other?
3. **Identify your theme. Choose people, events and experiences to include that relate to your theme as well as having had an impact on your life.**
4. **Find your voice—what makes your writing uniquely you? Humor, Metaphorical Thinking, Vocabulary, Anger, or something else?**
5. **Do your research**
 - Interviews
 - Family pictures
 - Diaries
 - Newspaper stories from the times you are writing about.
6. **Engage your audience**
 - Use dialogue.
 - Choose your anecdotes wisely and bring them to life.
 - Develop a powerful opening that immediately grabs your readers' attention.
 - Write a memoir you would want to read.
7. **Emphasize the important parts of your story by thoroughly developing them. All parts of your life do not need equal attention in a memoir.**
8. **Be prepared to write, rewrite, rewrite again, and then do the final edit for spelling and grammar.**



4

VOICE

5

READER
ENGAGEMENT

6

EMPHASIS

7

WRITE, REWRITE, &
REWRITE AGAIN

1

AUDIENCE & PURPOSE

2

THEME

3

RESEARCH

Resource
[https://
tinyurl.com/
Memoir123](https://tinyurl.com/Memoir123)