

Writing Snippets of Your Past

The New Writer's Guide to Capturing and Preserving Memories



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Introduction

The tradition of conveying stories about events in our lives is as old as the campfire. Our busy lives in today's world, not to mention moratoriums concerning campfires, have dwindled both time and opportunity to leave personal stories about our past for future generations. These treasured memories of one's lifetime, rather than being carried into future, are lost forever. Unless you are very accomplished, or infamous, the newspapers will have recorded little about your personality and lifestyle for those in the future to relish.

There is no reason your entire life should be obscured by the sands of time even though the days of the Pharaohs with personal scribes are long past. Today's pens, pencils, typewriters, and computers, are without a doubt more manageable than clay tablets. Ancient scribes would be astounded at the reams of blank paper available to all of us. The laborious task of hand making paper is now a hobby and not a necessary pastime. One timeless thread that joins us all is that we do like to be remembered. The amazing truth is, by leaving written words behind, you can control how you are remembered. The pen is mighty and powerful.

This guide provides easy, quick results even for those who have never written before. The goal to be achieved is far from that of a novel, but rather small verbal snapshots into the life of you as an individual. Photos are quick snapshots of the images that are part of our lives, but they speak nothing of the personal experiences and thoughts of the individuals. Your interpretation of the world around you is very individual. Photos inspire curiosity and the verbal snapshot or "snippet" becomes even more valuable. Your own perceptions, experiences, thoughts and feelings allow those in the future to get to know you.

The straightforward approach of this guide is appropriate for both new and seasoned writers. Each step is outlined and examples are shown. It can be used as class material or as a self help guide. Using the easy simplified method in this guide enables you to achieve quick results without having to devote large blocks of time and effort. Most endeavors in life are as complicated as you make them. Memories can be written at a sixth grade level, or you may choose to add complexity in sentence structure and by your choice of wording. You determine the level of effort you wish to expend and your own style of writing.

If you imagine your life to be a patchwork quilt, each snippet square would be an experience and part of the sum and total that fashions the individual you have become. This easy guide is intended to assist you in capturing your own selection of memories and turn them into separate written snippets for readers in the future. This is your opportunity to give the gift of your own "two cents worth" to other generations. Seize the day!