

Make your Memoir Memorable!

Your final draft should contain...

- a clever title:** What is the story about?
- an introduction:** Hook the reader!
- a plot:** What happened?
- organization:** Beginning, middle, & end. (in chronological order)
- characters:** The people involved.
- setting:** Where & when it took place.
- theme:** The story's moral or lesson.
- dialog:** Spoken conversations.
- descriptive language:** Show, don't tell!
- strong verbs:** A detailed picture of what's happening.
- metaphors:** "life is a highway"
- similes:** "slippery as an eel"
- proper mechanics:** Correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar.
- a captivating conclusion**

Add a

^ Captivating Conclusion

How did you feel at the end of your story? End your memoir optimistically! Give your reader a feeling that you grew or changed because of the event you described. What did you learn? Why is this story important to you?

Add an Enticing Intro

WHAT'S YOUR HOOK?

Your memoir should start in a way that makes the reader want to keep reading. These gripping introductions are called "hooks" because they **hook the reader!**

Question

When starting with a **question**, try to create a picture in the reader's mind. Use the words who, what, when, where, why, is, how, or are at the beginning of the sentence.

Quote

When writing a quote, it can be a direct **quotation** from a book, TV show, movie, or a famous person.

Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is a word that makes sounds. Those can be animal sounds, car sounds, or any other sound. Examples include: *Bang! Woof! Crash!*

Interjection

Interjections express emotions. Examples are: *Aha! Stop! Ugh! Help! YOW! Brrrr!*

Dialog

Start with a **dialog** or conversation among the characters.

Vivid Sensory

Give the reader a mental image of a person, object, place or event using **vivid sensory** details. What should the reader see, hear, taste, feel or smell?