

RULES FOR WRITING A MEMOIR
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1. **FACTUAL TRUTH AND EMOTIONAL TRUTH AREN'T NECESSARILY THE SAME THING.** *There are many points of view of what really happened.*
2. **THERE IS A PERFECT AGE TO WRITE A MEMOIR-NOW!**
3. **TRY TO GET THE FACTS RIGHT.** Facts are different than memories. Most families have unresolved issues. If there is a discrepancy, print both versions and let the reader decide.
4. **ERR ON THE SIDE OF KINDNESS.** Don't write a memoir to vent, to punish. Avenging the fear, pain, or humiliation "buttons" is okay for the first draft, then edit them out.
5. **YOUR WRITING VOICE IS YOUR PERSONALITY PUT ON PAPER.** Relax and be yourself.
6. **EVEN IF YOU BEGIN WRITING FROM SORROW OR ANGER, YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS WILL RECALL HAPPY EVENTS.** Just keep writing. You will gain a fuller knowledge of your past as you write.
7. **WRITING YOUR MEMOIR WILL EFFECT A PERMANENT CHANGE IN YOU.** Embrace it.
8. **WRITE EVERYTHING AND EXPECT TO EDIT IT.** No one gets it right the first time.
9. **WRITE ENGAGINGLY.** Watch the moralizing. We all made mistakes even in the "good old days".
10. **TRUTH ALONE DOESN'T MAKE GOOD WRITING.** Read a few memoirs to see what works.
11. **DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO WRITE A BOOK.** Write letters to your children. Write essays.
12. **BE READY FOR SOME CRITICISM.** Put the final draft out there for comments.
13. **DON'T USE THE "B" WORD.** Write a chapter. Write an essay. Don't think of it as a BOOK!
14. **MAKE THIS IMPORTANT. PART OF YOUR KID'S INHERITANCE.** .But make it enjoyable.
15. **YOU ARE THE EXPERT ON YOUR LIFE.** Remember the adage—there are no rewrites? Now there are.