

Writing Your Story

Leaving a Legacy

Syllabus

Instructor: Dee Burks

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Course Description: Practical step-by-step instruction for writing your story. Discover the kind of story/memoir that suits what you want to convey and then learn the process to complete that story.

Session #1 (Friday evening/night) 7 pm-9 pm

1. Discussion of class format and content. We will answer the questions: Why write your story? Who will read it? Where do you begin?
2. What kind of memoir story are you writing? Full life history, family history, one event history (i.e. war, illness, particularly difficult time, spiritual journey, relationship journey); the strengths and weaknesses of each and difference between them.
3. What are your whys? What would you consider success? Setting goals and achieving them.

Session #2 (Sat morning) 9 am-11:30

1. Discussion of memory ticklers and how they work for the various aspects of your story.
2. Dissect parts of your story to discover the real message.
3. Develop a working outline and theme for your story.
4. Talk about where to start each chapter and what elements it should contain.
5. How to decide what to leave in, what to leave out and where particular events should be placed within your story.

Session #3 (Sat Afternoon) 1 pm-4 pm

1. Discuss writing prompts and putting words on the page. Break and allow for writing time.
2. Participants have the opportunity to read parts of their story and receive feedback from the group. Instruction on how to give and receive productive feedback/critique.
3. Discuss theme and direction and how the idea of 'Your Story' has changed or been strengthened by the weekend.
4. Discuss steps forward, how to finish the story and what to do with it once completed.