

Suggestions for New Memoir writers

1. Start writing bits from anywhere in your story timeline. Imagine it is a jigsaw puzzle and pieces will be put together in different sequences over time.
2. Write for at least an hour each day until it gets easy, then gradually increase.
3. Initially write as a stream of consciousness and most importantly DO NOT EDIT.
Perfection is not required at the beginning creative stage. Each day go onto the next bit of writing. After a week or more you can return and look back on it.
4. Read it out aloud to see if it runs well. Then make some corrections. But know that this won't be the last bit of editing that you do.
5. Find yourself a buddy to read to. Someone who will just sit and listen without criticisms.
At the beginning you do not need anyone who might criticise your work otherwise you may stop writing altogether.
6. Find yourself a professional writing mentor who can look at your first few chapters and guide you on how to improve your writing.
7. KEEP GOING EVERY DAY do more.
8. It is important to give yourself time between the writing and then the editing. Sometimes it can be several weeks. You gain a fresh perspective and with the distance you can be more objective about what you have written.
9. When you have a lot written you can begin to look at how you want to put it together.
Does it run in order or do you have flash backs and dreams and reflections.
10. Keep going but also educate yourself.
Go to workshops on how to write in different forms. Be around other writers and find a writing group you can bounce off. It is a solitary experience and helps to have others to share with.
11. WRITING IS A JOURNEY of knowledge and education and then you need to learn how to write a book proposal and the marketing aspect of the book once you have finished.
12. THEN FIND A GOOD EDITOR and set on the task of clarifying what you have written and how to make it better, not just the grammar, but the meanings behind what you have written.
13. Who is your audience and will they understand? Are your experiences explained well?
14. KEEP CHIPPING AWAY AT IT. A house is not built in a day.
15. When it is finished, find your first readers and get their responses. Not your families.
Again make your changes from their feedback. Have a variety of readers.

