

HOW TO WRITE “YOUR STORY”

ALMOST ANYONE CAN WRITE – ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE OVER 50. MOST OF THEM WERE TAUGHT IN SMALLER HIGH SCHOOLS BY DEDICATED TEACHERS TO WRITE, IN COMPLETE SENTENCES, LETTERS AND STORIES. THAT WAS LONG BEFORE TODAY’S GENERATION ONLY LEARNED TO USE E-MAIL GIBBERISH.

DECIDE TO DO IT! BUY TWO COMPOSITION BOOKS – THEY ARE LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR EACH. TAKE TIME TO GO OFF TO YOURSELF IN A QUIET PLACE. START TO SCRIBBLE, WITH A PENCIL, SOME OF THESE KIND OF NOTES IN ONE OF THE BOOKS:

LIST A FEW OF THE LITTLE PERSONAL THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT YOUR: PARENTS, SIBLINGS, GRANDPARENTS, OTHER RELATIVES, CLOSEST CHILDHOOD FRIENDS – AND YOURSELF AS A CHILD.

JOT DOWN JUST A FEW WORDS ABOUT YOUR EARLIEST MEMORIES – EVEN SMALL ONES.

LIST MEMORIES ABOUT GROWING UP AND YOUR SCHOOL EXPERIENCES. TRY TO HONESTLY INCLUDE BOTH THE HAPPY AND THE PAINFUL ONES, AND HOW THEY MAY HAVE SERVED TO SHAPE YOUR FEELINGS AND VALUES.

TRUTHFULLY LIST A FEW OF THE “DEFINING EVENTS” OF YOUR LIFE, PLEASANT AND UNPLEASANT, AND THOSE OTHER PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT HAD AN IMPACT ON WHO YOU HAVE BECOME.

WRITE A FEW WORDS ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE(S) AND OFFSPRING – A SPECIAL PET - A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR CAREER(S) – YOUR MISTAKES AND PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS.

ASK YOUR SPOUSE, OR SOMEONE WHO KNOWS YOU WELL, TO READ WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN AND OFFER HONEST SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO EXPAND UPON OR WHAT PARTS TO LEAVE OUT, AND WHY. LISTEN TO THEM, AND CONSIDER MAKING CHANGES.

DO JUST A LITTLE AT A TIME, BUT SAVE THIS FIRST COMPOSITION BOOK AND COME BACK TO YOUR ROUGH NOTES WHEN YOU CAN. JOT DOWN MORE NOTES AS OTHER MEMORIES COME BACK TO YOU BETWEEN WRITING SESSIONS. SOON YOU WILL BE EAGER TO WRITE MORE ABOUT THESE AND POLISH THEM UP.

WRITE, AND RE-WRITE FREELY, AND OFTEN. AS YOU DO, MORE MEMORIES WILL RETURN. THE WORDS WILL BEGIN TO FLOW SMOOTHER. YOU CAN START TO SEE HOW THE MANY PIECES YOU HAVE WRITTEN SHOULD FIT TOGETHER. WHEN YOU THINK YOU ARE READY, GO TO THE SECOND BOOK AND BEGIN TO COMBINE NOTES FROM THE FIRST ONE TO START FORMING A MEANINGFUL PICTURE OF YOUR LIFE – MAYBE IN ORDER BY TIME.

INSERT OLD PHOTOS AND GENEALOGY CHARTS AT THE BACK OF THIS SECOND COMPOSITION BOOK WHICH WILL BECOME “YOUR NOTEBOOK”. THEY WILL HELP READERS BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE TELLING. **DECIDE WHEN TO STOP – THE HARDEST PART!** END WITH A SUMMARY OF WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE, AND WHY.

OFFER “YOUR NOTEBOOK” WITH PRIDE AS A UNIQUE GIFT TO SOMEONE MOST DEAR TO YOU.

“YOUR NOTEBOOK”

I GUARANTEE THAT THIS EXPERIENCE, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES, OR HOW “ROUGH” THE WRITING MAY SEEM TO YOU, IT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND FULFILLING THINGS YOU WILL EVER DO.

IN THE YEARS TO COME IT MAY BE THOUGHT OF AS THE MOST VALUABLE LEGACY THAT YOU COULD EVER HAVE LEFT BEHIND.

A PARTING THOUGHT

ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS ONCE ASKED WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE MANKIND'S MOST IMPORTANT INVENTION.

HE REPLIED "WRITTEN WORDS"

WHY?

BECAUSE THEY GIVE US IMMORTALITY, A PART OF US THAT CAN REMAIN LONG AFTER WE ARE GONE.