

Twelve Quick Quizzes

Revised from Eva Shaw's "Write Your Life Story" for
Dr. R. Ramos' ENGL 2307 Creative Writing I: Life Writing
Fall 2016

Quiz 1: True or False?

1. If you're at all doubting yourself, or unsure if you have a life story worth writing, just don't bother doing it.
2. Writing your story may change your perspective on your life.
3. You should only write your life story if you have accomplished something really incredible in life, such as solved world hunger, developed a cure for a terminal disease, or bettered humanity.
4. Many people write their life stories to give to loved ones.
5. Sad life stories shouldn't be written.

Quiz 2: True or False?

1. Life stories can only be written in book form.
2. Autobiographies are impossible to get published.
3. Many people begin writing smaller pieces of their life stories and then link them together as a collection.
4. You can't write a memoir overnight; it takes time to write.
5. A realistic writing goal is to write one page a day.

Quiz 3: True or False?

1. The Bubble Method is a brainstorming technique used by writers and other creative people.
2. When using the Bubble Method, you should always print.
3. Memoirs are always fictionalized; they are novels.
4. You can turn your life story into a novel.
5. When writing your life story, you should avoid using “I” whenever possible.

Quiz 4: True or False?

1. People influence our lives and are part of our stories.
2. To help write your life story, think about the people in your life as a cast of characters in a movie or TV.
3. It is insightful to complete a character sketch about yourself.
4. You can throw away the character sketches for your cast of characters once you finish. You won't use them or add to them again.
5. Dialogue won't tell the stories in your life story.

Quiz 5: True or False?

1. Life stories always start on the day the person who is writing the story was born.
2. Experienced writers begin their life stories at an important moment when something significant has happened.
3. When writing your life story, you are the star of the show and can tell it your way.
4. You may want to use the Bubble Method to brainstorm on just when to begin your life story.
5. Writing your life story as nonfiction will let you hide all the details.

Quiz 6: True or False?

1. Once you begin thinking of your life story, memories will begin to flood your mind.
2. As you write, don't concern yourself with anything that has to do with your feelings -- all that will come later.
3. Experienced writers make notes of their feelings as they organize and ponder their life stories.
4. Look at the clothing you wore at times in your life -- it can help you remember the past.
5. Photos are a great reminder of your past.

Quiz 7: True or False?

1. Every writer needs to discover thoughts and feelings about life before writing a life story.
2. It takes time to establish new habits, including writing in a journal every day.
3. Always let others read your journal.
4. In your journal, be ready to experience, to write, and to read unexpected feelings and memories.
5. You should spend at least ten minutes writing in your journal every day.

Quiz 8: True or False?

1. Life stories have a long tradition, starting with storytelling.
2. You can't find family history information on the Internet.
3. Always be mindful of others' feelings when interviewing.
4. The words you choose and the way you write them are an example of your writer's voice.
5. You might mistake the writer's voice of J. K. Rowling for the voice of Stephen King.

Quiz 9: True or False?

1. If you write, you'll never have to conduct an interview.
2. Interviewing is asking questions to get information and answers to topics.
3. An interview is a series of focused questions.
4. When you go to an interview, be sure to tell *all* the details of what you're writing about -- this is *your* time.
5. Just drop by your expert's home or office and start the interview. There's no need to make an appointment.

Quiz 10: True or False?

1. You need to clearly describe locations in a way that the reader can relate to them.
2. Location descriptions help to tell your story.
3. Never use dialogue to describe locations.
4. Adding details and enlarging moments of your story help the reader to better understand the drama.
5. Details make your life story come alive.

Quiz 11: True or False?

1. In writing, punctuation is used to help the reader know what you're writing.
2. Grammar rules have never changed.
3. It's good to keep punctuation simple.
4. A common mistake new writers make is to use the exclamation mark to show action rather than choosing action words.
5. Experienced writers vary the types and lengths of the sentences.

Quiz 12: True or False?

1. *Writer's Market* lists many, but not all, of the publishers in the United States.
2. Years ago there was a stigma attached to self-publishing.
3. Many people make lots of money when they self-publish.
4. Self-publishing a book requires no commitment from the writer.
5. Co-op publishing pools the resources of many people to produce a book.