



Getting Started on Your Memoir

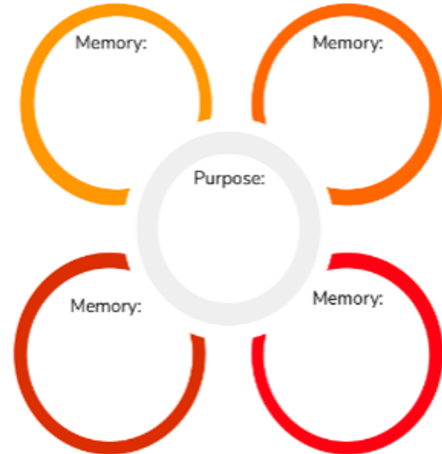


Purpose of Presentation

- Guide you through the Memoir Planning Worksheet.
- Inspire ideas.
- Provide structure.
- Provide a starting point for your writing.
- Identify next steps in the writing process.

Memoir Planning Worksheet

1. Brainstorming Topics:



2. Narrowing Your Focus:

3. Gathering Information:

Background Information:

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1

Agenda

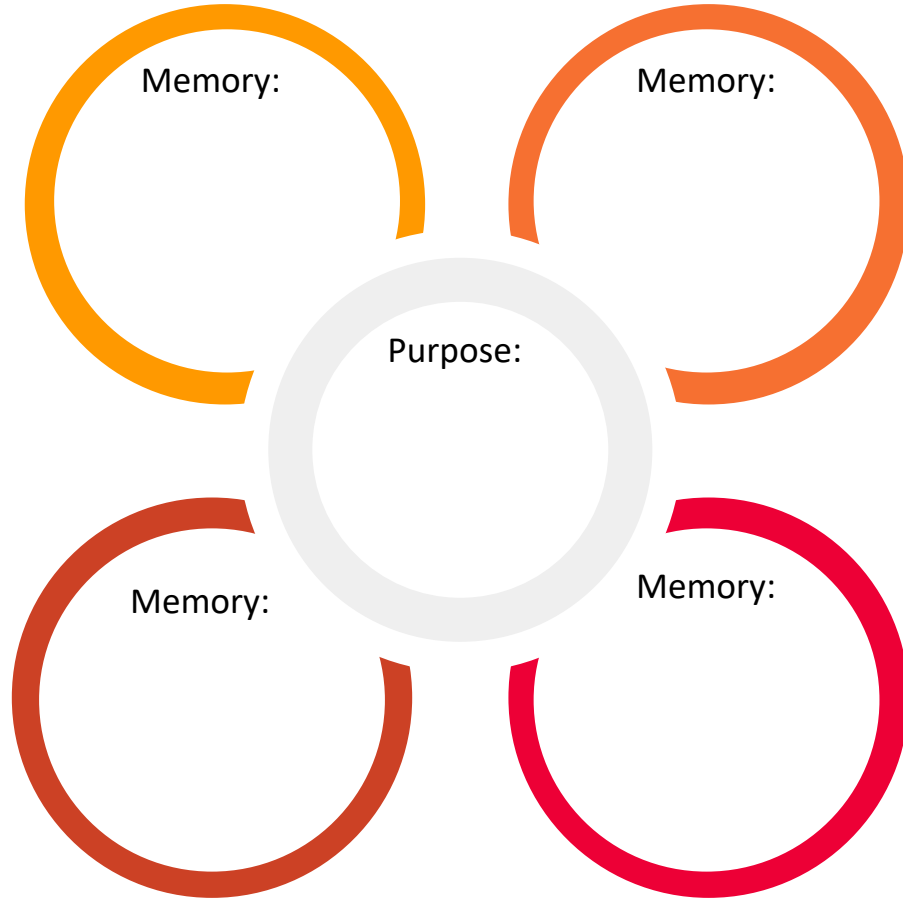


1. Brainstorming possible topics.
2. Narrowing your focus.
3. Gathering information about your story.
4. Identifying areas of possible research.
5. Reviewing previous submissions for inspiration.

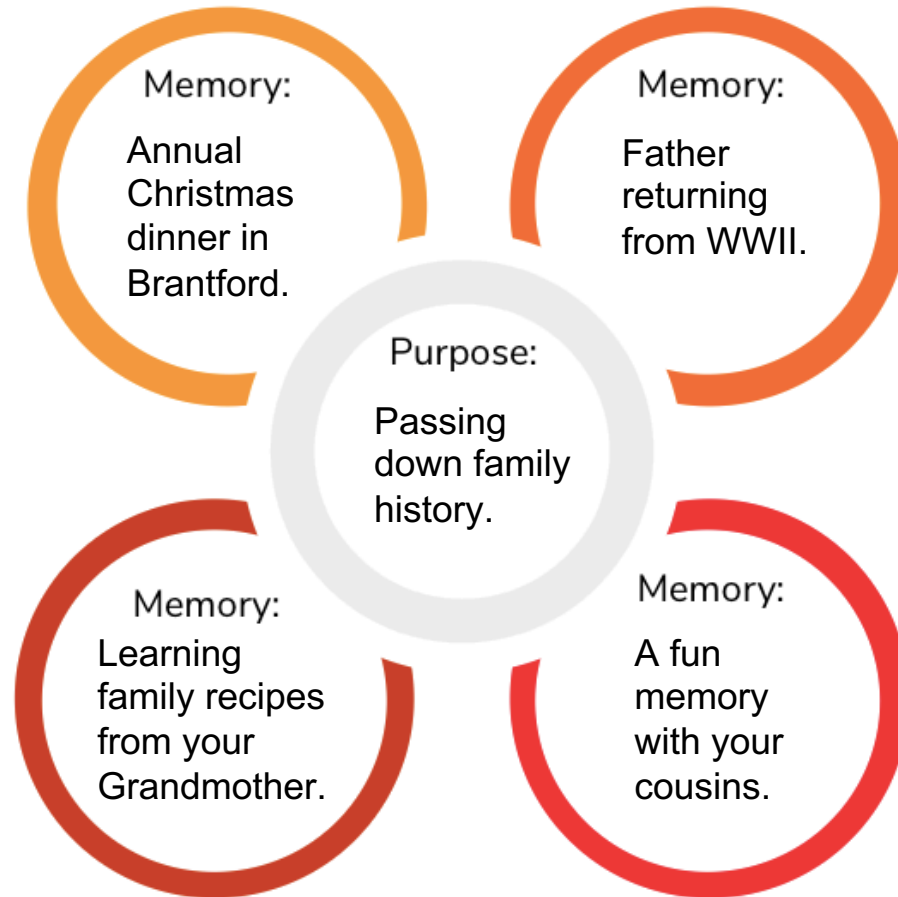
1. Brainstorming Topics

Possible Purposes:

- Preserving family history.
- Sharing wisdom with others.
- Reflecting on emotional experiences.



Example



2. Narrowing Your Focus



Select 1
memory from
your list.

NY Book Editors:

“A memoir usually revolves around one or maybe even a series of memories. It is rarely ever all-encompassing. It focuses on one seminal event that changes the course of that person’s life. It’s heavily thematic, meaning that there’s usually one subject. Often this is the moral, i.e. the lesson learned.”

3. Gathering Information



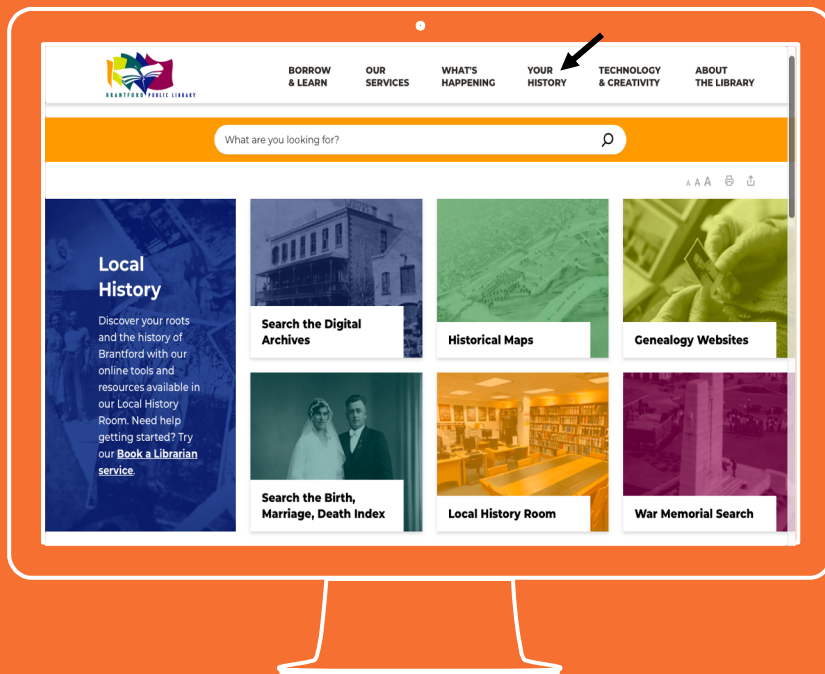
Based on this memory, write down...

- Personal background information.
- Moral/life lessons learned and significance of memory.
- Community affairs during that time.

4. Research (Optional)



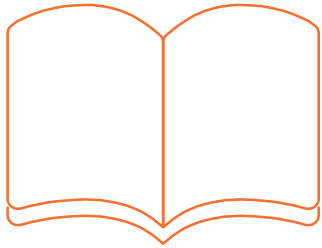
Explore the resource Links on pages 3-4 in the worksheet.



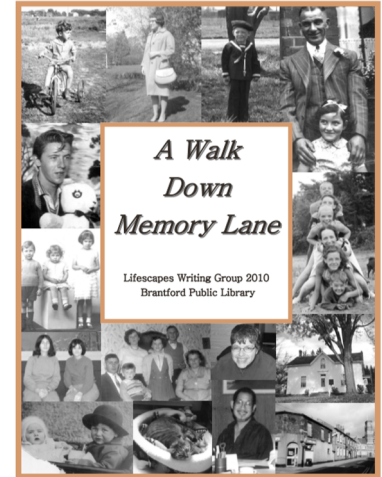
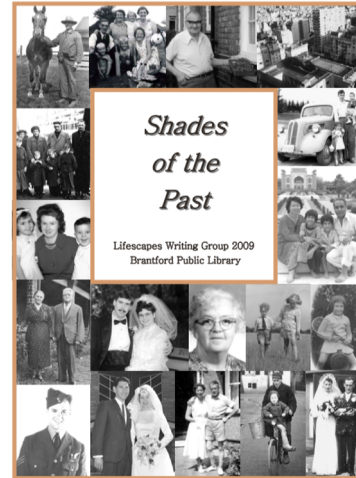
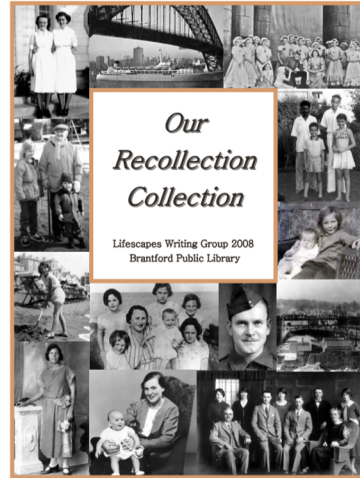
Benefits:

1. Confirm details (dates, names, places).
2. Enhance story with pictures, local history, community affairs during that time period.

5. Look Over Previous Lifescapes Submissions



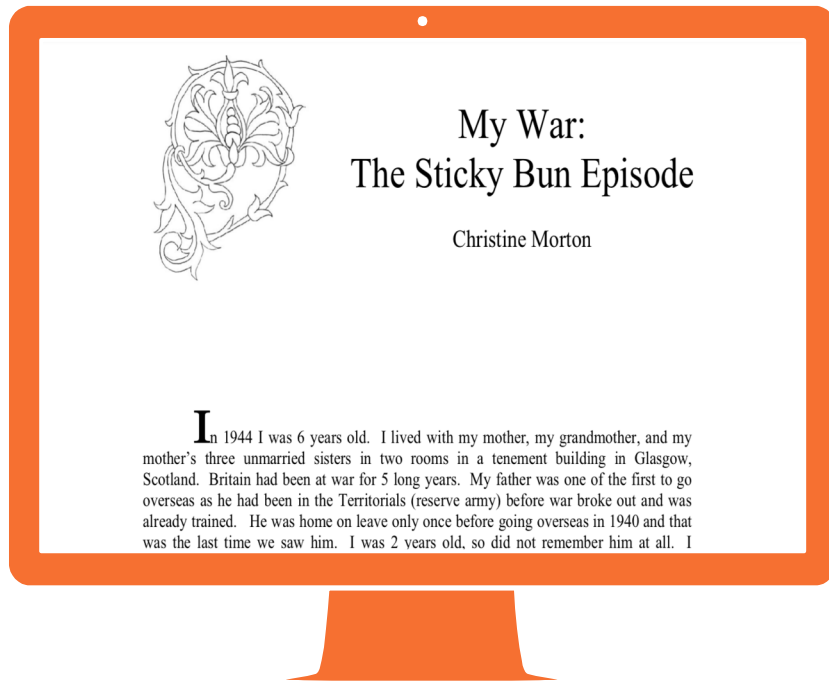
Look at different styles of memoir writing and jot down what type of content you like and want to include in your memoir.
See next slide for an example.



<https://www.brantfordlibrary.ca/Modules/History/DigitalArchive/Results.aspx?Keywords=lifescapes>

Example

“My War: The Sticky Bun Episode” by Christine Morton *Our Recollection Collection (2008, pp. 10-12)*



What I think worked really well and would include in my memoir...

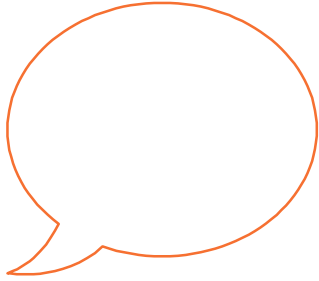
- Introduction provides context for the story and a personal connection to the author.
- Organized in chronological order.
- Depicts a variety of emotions felt throughout the series of events.
- Incorporates a significant, fun memory that is important to the author.
- Highlights both familial and communal relations.
- Discusses significant events and societal context related to the period.
- Incorporates personal pictures to complement the descriptions of the people involved.

Get Ahead: Try to start looking now for some pictures of yourself or the event that you can add to your story at the end!



Next Steps:

- **Research anything you wrote down that may be helpful to your story.**
- **Keep your eye out for photos of people, settings or objects that enhance your story (if you can).**
- **Start writing!**



Thank you very much for
your time!

If you can, please take the time to fill out this
brief survey on this presentation:

www.projectoutcome.org/en/51098



If you have any questions or comments
about this presentation please don't
hesitate to contact Robin Harding,
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