

Memoir

Debra Moerke

307-267-8394

Dj_moerke@yahoo.com

Debramoerke.com

Author: Murder, Motherhood, and Miraculous Grace

A True Story

True story, memoir, and autobiography are very similar. All will involve something that actually happened. Something you lived and experienced. You can write a true story about something someone *else* lived or experienced, but for this workshop, I will address your own true story.

Pray about your story. Ask God to show you and direct you through the whole process.

Why?

- I. Why write a true story or a memoir?
 - a. Something about your life that you feel others would want to read about
 - b. Share the things you wanted to say but didn't have the courage or opportunity
 - c. To inspire, educate, or prepare others by sharing a true-life experience with them.
 - d. What is YOUR Why?

What?

- II. What to write, what not to write?
 - a. Write what you know. Creative writing and exaggerating truth are two different things.
 - b. Don't write anything that could bring a case of slander by someone you wrote about or a lawsuit due to legal or medical misinformation. Be VERY discerning about words you use. An editor may want to see more powerful words. Be very careful using strong words that could get you into trouble just for the sake of more powerful writing. (ex. _____)
 - c. If there is a negative part and/or person in your story, think about the person you are writing about and about reader. (What impact will words leave?)

Who?

- III. Who are you including in your story?
- Use real names or not? (Disclaimer at beginning of the book)
 - Who will sign a release form and who would you not ask? (How to handle that? (You can create a form or get one from your publisher.)
 - Will the general public be able to identify the people in your story? (Is that okay with the person you write about?)

Where?

- IV. Accuracy and Research
- If there are details that need clarification, be sure to clarify (What does that mean?)
 - If the story is about a place, (city, state, country) make sure you have correct facts about it (Go to the place and take in your surroundings)
 - If medial or legal information is called for, research and ask questions of professionals

When ?

- V. Start writing vs proposal? Fiction and non-fiction proposals are not the same.
- Think about when to start with your story, outline, proposal?
 - Write outline or start proposal (outline - helps to do first)
 - When do you tell others what you are writing about? And who?
 - When do you want your story to start? (At birth? A teen? When your story started?)

How?

- VI. What/ how will you share if interviewed or speaking about your book
- Since your story is true, who and how do you protect them in the story?
 - For the future...Set up RULES with whom is interviewing you as to what questions you will not answer
 - Write up a list of questions you would like to be asked

And they all lived happily ever after...

Think about the end of your story- Don't end negatively!!

Do you have challenges throughout the story that keeps readers interested?

What do you want to accomplish in your story? (humor, tragedy, anger, challenge, hope, forgiveness) Even in the most serious of story, comic relief is a good thing. It can be short. That gives the reader a break from the drama.

If God is leading you, trust Him. Feel confident in what you are writing.

