

## WRITE YOUR VOICE CHAPTER

Collaboration of Authors



**BUILDING BEYOND THE CAGE**  
never  
stop  
dreaming

**True Raw Stories from Male &  
Female Survivors who have lived  
with Abuse and Left.**

Created by CHRISTINE BOGERS

With Different Subtitles & Colors: Surviving Child  
Abuse, Surviving Domestic Violence, etc.

## What is the format of autobiography?

*The most accepted format for an autobiography is chronological. This means writing the life story in the order in which it happened. One starts with a bit of background of parents and family, and proceeds from the time of one's birth. Consider your whole life and add in your how you got through it, then add in how you think they can too. A good idea is to look up and read a chapter of an Autobiography, this will give you insight on how to write it up.*

**Name your Title:** Chapter titles can contribute useful structure, however. A title may:

- Hint what the coming chapter is about
- Summarise (overtly or subtly) important themes or ideas in your story
- Give useful information (such as a date or geographic location), helping the reader to understand where (or when) the events of your chapter occur

**Use chapter titles to structure your story in different ways:**

- Attracting the attention of readers
- Finding and emphasizing your chapter's focus
- Orienting your story and creating signposts that guide readers through your story.

## 6 Things to Include in an Autobiography.

An autobiography should include all the most important details of your life story. This does not mean it should contain every tiny sliver of minutiae; a self-aware autobiographer will take stock of certain moments in their own life that may be interesting to themselves but not to an audience of strangers.

*Here are some key elements to consider including in your autobiography:*

1. **A description of your personal origin story:** This can include your hometown, your family history, some key family members and loved ones, and touchstone moments in your education.
2. **Significant experiences:** Add accounts of each personal experience that shaped your worldview and your approach to life in the present day.
3. **Detailed recollections of episodes from your professional life:** Often these are the turning points that your autobiography will be known for—the moments that would inspire someone to pick up your book in the first place. Be sure to give them extra care and attention.
4. **A personal story of failure:** Follow it up with a good story of how you responded to that failure

5. **A unique and compelling title:** Steer clear of generic phrases like “my autobiography” or “the story of me, my family, and famous people I know.”
6. **A first-person narrative voice:** Third person writing is appropriate for traditional biographies, but in the autobiography format, third person voice can read as presumptuous.

## How to Write an Autobiography in 8 Steps:

1. **Start by Brainstorming.** The writing process begins by compiling any and all life experiences that you suspect might be compelling to a reader. As you sort through your own memories, be sure to cover all eras of your life—from childhood to high school to your first job to the episodes in your life you are most known for. Many of these episodes won’t make it into the final draft of your book, but for now, keep the process broad and open.
2. **Craft an Outline.** Begin to organize a narrative around the most compelling episodes from your brainstorm. If you pace your life’s important events throughout your book, you’ll be able to grip your readers’ attention from beginning to end.
3. **Do Your Research.** Once you have a first draft of your outline, engage in some research to help you recall contextual information from the period you are writing about. Interview friends and family members to help you remember all the details from the moments you choose to recall in your autobiography. No one can remember the full history of their entire life—particularly their childhood—so prepare to do some cultural research as well.
4. **Write Your First Draft.** If you’ve come up with the key biographical moments around which you can anchor your life story, then you are ready to attempt a first draft. This draft may be overly long and scattershot, but professional writers know that even the tightest final drafts may be borne of a long winded first draft.
5. **Take a Break.** When your first draft is complete, take a few days off. You’ll want to read your work with the freshest possible perspective; removing yourself from the process for a few days can aid this endeavour.
6. **Proofread.** After a brief layoff, begin proofreading. Yes, you should look for grammar mistakes, but more importantly, you should identify weak moments in the narrative and come up with constructive improvements. Think about what you’d look for if reading about another person’s life and apply it to your own autobiography.
7. **Write Your Next Draft.** Write a second draft based on the notes you’ve given yourself. Then, when this second draft is complete, show it to trusted friends and, if you have one, a professional editor. Their outside eyes will give you a valuable perspective that you cannot possibly have on your own work.
8. **Refine Your Writing.** Repeat step 7 as needed. New drafts should be followed by new reads from new people. Throughout the process, you will refine your writing skills and your autobiographical know how. Hopefully you will end up producing a final draft that is

leaps and bounds beyond what you produced in a first draft—but that still holds true to the most important elements of your life and your personal truth.

## How to Structure your Autobiography

Here is a good link to help guide you: This website taught me loads when I wrote my books, and it will help you as well. You do not need for it to be perfect just write and learn along the way towards your end result, Focus on your end result only

<https://answershark.com/writing/creative-writing/how-to-write-an-autobiography.html>

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Please keep your story raw and as real as you can, no swearing or hate speech against opposite sex.