

MEMOIR MIND MAP

I'm so excited that you're willing to share your extraordinary story.

Before we begin, I want to make sure you understand that this book that you're about to pour your heart into... it's not about you. It is, but it isn't. It's about the journey you embarked upon so that you could serve others. It's about your readers and what they're able to gain from your story.

It's your WHY.

And you don't have to know what your WHY is right now. That's what this mind-mapping exercise is for... a preliminary guide.

First of all, what is a Memoir?

A memoir is a narrative, written from the perspective of the author, about an important part of their life.

While a memoir doesn't require recounting every moment of one's history, formative background information is key in developing compelling stories and connecting with your reader.

This is your Hero's Journey... your memoir.

Understanding the key elements of a memoir can guide you through this mind-mapping process.

What are the key elements?

- Theme
- Challenges/Conflict
- Supporting Stories & Details
- Emotional Beats - what motivates your actions?
- Honesty
- Personality/Voice
- Perception - how did your perception change throughout your story?

Please keep in mind that as your ghostwriter, it's my job to take your mind-mapping points and weave them into the key elements. Don't over think this process. Use it as an opportunity to reflect and find the purpose in your journey.

We'll get into the details later. For now, prepare to embark upon a trip down memory lane and see what rises to the surface. Not everything that you write will necessarily be included in the book. I'll work with you to determine what drives your story toward your WHY.

Divide your life into periods of 10 years and think about the pivotal moments in each decade of your life. Do this in whatever order feels most comfortable to you, but keep your accomplishments in one category and your setbacks in another.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SETBACKS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SETBACKS

For each of these events, who are the key people who were present? Did anyone in particular help you work through these events? Did you have negative influences? Just like any story, memoirs will have both heroes and villains.

POSITIVE INFLUENCE

NEGATIVE INFLUENCE

POSITIVE INFLUENCE

NEGATIVE INFLUENCE

Think about where you are now, and what you're most proud of in the life you've created. What have you learned? What are your personal truths and beliefs that guide you today?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their response to the prompt above. The box occupies most of the page's vertical space.

Think about your readers for a second. Who are you writing this for? Is it for a young adult who has lost hope? Is it for someone in their mid-life who has been led off their path, and needs guidance to get back on track? Knowing who you're writing to will help guide the theme.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the majority of the page below the text. It is intended for the user to write their response to the prompt above.

What are your readers' passions and goals? What are they afraid of, and what gives them comfort?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page below the question. It is intended for the user to write their response to the question above.

Look back at the pivotal moments in your life—your accomplishments and setbacks. Circle the ones that you believe were crucial in helping you develop your current beliefs. Do you see any overarching themes? Write them down here.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their reflections on pivotal moments in their life.

Does any theme in particular stand out to you? If so, how could your reader relate to it? Could it ignite a flame in your readers soul, inspiring them toward positive change? If so, this could be an element of your WHY and something we'll explore when we review your mind-map together.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the majority of the page below the text. It is intended for the user to write their response to the questions above.

NEXT STEPS

There are four major milestones in the memoir writing process:

- Completion of the chapter outline.
- First half of the first draft.
- Completion of the first draft.
- Final manuscript.

OUTLINING, FINDING YOUR VOICE & THE THEME OF YOUR STORY

I'll start by creating an overview outline during Zoom or phone calls where I will gather the details of your life story, determine the overarching themes, and find your voice. Then, I'll transform it into a polished narrative and gather your feedback and use it to craft a detailed chapter outline, which will serve as the book's blueprint.

FIRST DRAFT GENERATION

Once your chapter outline is created, and I'm ready to dive into the first draft, I'll create a Google Doc file that I'll share with you so you have access to my progress as well as questions that I'll send you as they arise. You will have the ability to comment or notate my work, if you desire. This part of the process can take anywhere from 2-4 months depending on how quickly you're able to get back to my questions.

TAILOR-MADE EDITS & THE ULTIMATE POLISH

After the first draft has been completed, I'll tailor it to perfection. Alongside a group of beta readers, I'll ensure that your story is polished and ready to prepare for publishing.

PUBLISHING NEXT STEPS

I will handle all aspects of publishing for you, from the cover design, interior layout, Kindle formatting, proofreading, and ensuring your book is properly set up and ready to accept pre-orders on Amazon. I'll also develop a book marketing plan to maximize your chances of achieving bestseller status and creating a lasting legacy for years to come.

I am fully committed to writing your story with utmost integrity and will care for it as if it is my own. I look forward to embarking upon this journey with you.

