

∞ YOUR MEANINGFUL MEMOIR ∞

• #5 ALIGNMENT •



“It ain’t what you don’t know that gets you into trouble. It’s what you know for sure that just ain’t so.”

— Mark Twain



Making the story true to your life, and the life true to your story.

Sometimes a surprising shift occurs at this stage. As you step back and view your life as a whole, patterns emerge that were difficult to see while you were living them. Certain stories suddenly become more important. Others lose their significance. You may discover themes that have quietly guided your choices for decades, or recognize strengths, values, and motivations that were present all along but never fully acknowledged.

This is the stage of alignment. The goal is not simply to improve the manuscript, but to ensure that the story accurately reflects who you are and what matters most to you. As new understanding emerges, you may find yourself rewriting sections, adding stories that were previously overlooked, or removing material that no longer feels authentic. Sometimes the memoir changes. Occasionally, the writer changes as well.

Many people begin this process believing they are documenting their lives. By this stage, they often realize they are discovering their lives. The result is a memoir that feels more honest, more coherent, and more deeply connected to the person who lived it. road ahead.



Visit www.meaningfulmemoirs.com to download our free e-book and to schedule a free 30-minute zoom.

DIY or we can help but, above all,
write your life!

When the stories, the themes, and the values align, a deeper sense of clarity often emerges—not only about the past, but about the road ahead.

One of the most valuable steps at this stage is to invite a small circle of trusted friends to read what you have produced so far. Select those who know you well and ask them to read a chapter or two which you can email. Then, schedule a brief phone conversation to hear their thoughts. You are not looking for praise; you are looking for helpful feedback.

Ask simple questions: What did you enjoy most? What was confusing or unclear? What would you like to know more about? What felt unnecessary or repetitive? Did any themes or strengths stand out to you that I may have overlooked? Different readers will notice different things, to help expose blind spots and hidden treasures.

Some may read only a chapter, while others may become enthusiastic partners in your process. Their perspectives will enrich your memoir. Offer every contributor a signed copy of the finished book.

ALIGNMENT

*Truth emerges.
Assumptions fade.
The story finds its voice.*