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## Life Story Writing and Notes

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Writing about the life of a loved one means honoring that person's life, experiences and relationships. It means celebrating the joys and treasured memories, as well as passing down the hard-earned lessons and struggles. Each life is important, and is made up of precious moments of time that should not be forgotten. What the next generation will value most is not what we had, but who we were. Before a Life Story is written, it's important to take the time to gather some basic information like the person's birthplace, family, and schooling, to establish a context for his or her life. With this framework in place, it's then helpful to answer some questions and share some of your memories.

With all this information gathered, it's easier to craft a story of the person and paint a full and colorful picture of the life he or she lived. You can use this information to organize and compose a Life Story that you can add to the Monumark yourself, or you can submit the notes to us, using our professional Life Story writing services to create the Life Story. Instructions for either approach can be found at the end of this document.

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**1) Date of birth, place of birth; place where they grew up.**

**2) Parents' names and what they did for a living. Was their ancestry important?**

**3) Siblings' names and their place in the birth order.**

**4) What was their childhood like? What interests did they have?  
Do they have any memorable childhood stories?**

**5) What about their teen years? What should we know about this time in their life?  
Were there special interests, friendships, or romances that were significant?  
Can you describe them?**

**6) What level of schooling did they complete?  
What were their specific areas of interest?**

**7) Did they serve in the military?  
If so, please describe what they did and where they served.**

**8) Are they married or involved in a relationship?  
How did they meet? Was there a ceremony?**

**9) Do they have children? What are their names?  
What does having these children mean to them?**

10) Are there any particularly difficult challenges that they faced as a parent?

11) Tell us about this person's personality. What in life is important to them?  
How would you describe their outlook on life?

12) Are they involved in church, clubs, or other organizations?  
Why did they choose to become involved?  
What memorable experiences are important to them?

13) What did they do for a living? How did they feel about this work?  
What memorable stories can they tell about their work experiences?

14) Have they had any unforgettable vacations? Or holiday gatherings?

15) What are some of their favorite hobbies, pastimes, or possessions?

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16) What are the most important things in their life?

17) What was the greatest day of their life?

18) What three words describe them?

Why? What will people remember most about them?

18) Is there a phrase they always say?

A color they always wear?

20) Who does their family include today?

Spouse, children, grandchildren, siblings, etc.

21) Additional Notes:

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With this information gathered, a Life Story can be crafted of the person which paints a full and colorful picture of the life he or she lived. From here, you can write a story and add it to the Monumark yourself, or you can submit these notes to our professional Life Story writing services.

## Tips for Writing the Story Yourself:

1. Save your responses to the questions above, and have them readily available.
2. Read all the way through the notes before you start writing.
3. Try to organize and rewrite the information in chronological order, getting a feel for how the story will take shape.
4. Start writing the story. Try to write the introduction as a characterization of the person, rich in adjectives and feeling.
5. Begin writing about the earliest years of the person's life. Set the stage for the era in which the person was born, drawing on historical events that may have influenced the kind of person he or she was.
6. Continue using the notes to assemble a chronological story of the person's life. Use the short stories and memories listed above to tell about things such as schooling, family, employment, hobbies, challenges, friends, etc.
7. Conclude the story with a paragraph that ties everything together. You may choose to write about the person's final days and/or the most memorable moments and draw your story to a close.
8. When the story is complete, visit [monumark.com/write-the-story](http://monumark.com/write-the-story) and add it to the Monumark using the form at the bottom of the page.

## Or, Use Our Professional Writing Services:

1. Save your responses to the questions above, either in this document or in another text or word processing document.
2. Go to [monumark.com/life-story-writing-services](http://monumark.com/life-story-writing-services) and out the form at the bottom of the page, uploading your completed Life Story Notes file as well.
3. Submit the form, and pay using the secure online checkout. You can use credit card or PayPal. You'll receive a confirmation email when your transaction is complete.
4. Within 72 hours, you'll receive a copy of the completed Life Story via email.
5. You are free to review and revise the story, and post it to the Monumark using the form at [monumark.com/write-the-story](http://monumark.com/write-the-story).