

"I want my grandchildren to know I wasn't always old!"



A spirited woman brought down the house when she blurted that out in a recent program on Lifestory Writing presented by Sharon Lippincott, author of *The Heart and Craft of Lifestory Writing*. "Many people remember school papers and grades, and clench up when they think of writing," Ms. Lippincott explains. "Writing doesn't have to be work, and nobody is going to grade it. In fact, once they begin, many people become hooked and can't wait to write more." She goes on to explain that although family members may seem indifferent now, in years to come, many will be curious about the lives of previous generations. "Any life story you write, no matter how short or spontaneous, is better than writing nothing!" she insists.

In this fast-paced program she covers the reasons for writing and gives the audience plenty of tips on how to get started writing their own personal history. This program can be tailored for your group to run from half an hour to two. Other topics available are *Write for the Health of It*, and *Getting Into the Write Spirit*.

One of her lifestory writing students, a native of McKeesport, recently self-published a 280 page autobiography of his first 85 years, and is now revising a second manuscript for a memoir recounting his WWII experiences. He is the exception, not the rule. Most students are content to write a collection of miscellaneous stories.

Sharon Lippincott is a life writing instructor and coach and the author of three books, *The Heart and Craft of Lifestory Writing*, *The Albuquerque Years*, and *Meetings: Do's, Don'ts, and Donuts*, and the popular "Heart and Craft of Lifestory Writing" blog. Her programs for local groups and conferences always draw a crowd. An active member of several writing groups, both real-time and on the Internet, she has written over 700 stories, essays, and articles about her own life experiences, observations and the writing process.

Audience members say:

- *Thanks for the great program. I've going right home to write.*
- *Your exercise gave me a great start. I can't wait to keep writing.*
- *Your examples were great. You make writing sound so easy and now my grandchildren can know I wasn't always old!*

Call or e-mail today to schedule a program for your organization.

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