

Children Of Pain Writers Workshop - 10/31/21 - ChildrenOfPain.com

Writing Your Survivor Story

by Bob

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Why write your story?

RECOGNIZE you are a child of pain

REACH out for support

REMEMBER the abuse you endured

RECLAIM control of your life

recognize: acknowledge your past

reach: written history

remember: fill in the blanks

reclaim: don't forget - don't repeat

writing formats

short story

journal

poetry

diary

song

book

book formats

fiction

nonfiction

linear

highlight

challenges writing nonfiction highlights

1. Selection
2. Organization
3. Detail
4. Pornography

challenges writing nonfiction highlights

1. Selection:

Choose events that you are most sure about and that are most representative of what you have survived. This child abuse likely happened over many years, or even decades, and it will not be possible to put everything into a book.

challenges writing nonfiction highlights

2. Organization: Decide how to group the events into chapters so that each of the chapters has a distinct identity. Two of the most common ways to do this are by time line (linear) or by either persons or events (highlights).

challenges writing nonfiction highlights

3. Detail:

Determine how descriptive you want to be when describing what happened to you. Keep in mind who you are writing for: is it for your eyes only, or are you hoping to find a larger audience?

challenges writing nonfiction highlights

4. Pornography: Write so your reader is able to understand what happened, but not in so much depth that it becomes a how-to book. So be descriptive, but not instructive to the point of being pornographic.

speechless



**an autobiography of
child murder and rape**

<https://www.amazon.com/speechless-autobiography-child-murder-rape/dp/1728718163>

2018

examples

1. Selection: events that are representative

Topic: *my father tried to murder me*

Page 35 - screwdriver

Page 36 - electric train

Page 38 - capacitor

Page 40 - bicycle

Page 43 - hydroelectric plant

examples

2. Organization: table of contents

Prologue	1	(pre-story)
Introduction	5	(set the stage)
Father	9	
Mother	49	
Brother	67	
Christmas	75	
Epilogue	89	(after-story)

examples

3. Detail: Who are you writing for?

PROLOGUE - PAGE 3

In preparing to write about my epiphanies, I first had to accept the fact that many people might incorrectly second guess my intentions for making all of this public. This was not an attempt to *Jerry Springer* anyone, for if public shaming were my goal, then I would have written this book decades ago, properly naming all the people and places. I did not. In fact, the only relevant person whose full name I have used in this book is my own, in an effort to keep the focus on the heinous acts I endured growing up and not the individuals involved.

Originally, I had wanted to wait several more years until I had finally retired so that I could fully devote my time and energy to this very important topic. It had taken me *decades to accept*, confront and overcome my own familial Stockholm Syndrome, so letting a little more time pass before committing this to paper did not seem to matter. But, given the recent revelations about the Gold Cross Boys of Pennsylvania - young boys who were given special gold crosses by their Catholic priests so as to mark them for rape by other priests - I did not feel I could wait any longer. Children of abuse must know that they are not alone, and this is my small way of bringing this subject out of the dark. That is why I have written this autobiography about monsters, murder, and rape, thereby breaking and ending a silence that has gone on for too long.

examples

4. Pornography: descriptive - not instructive

Page 22

...Though I have tried, it is hard to describe the pain associated with a grown man jamming his hard erection in a toddler's lower colon. The best I could come up with is this. **Imagine someone is forcing a bowling ball into your mouth, except it is not a bowling ball, and it is not your mouth.**

Page 31

...I was immediately taken home and, after that, nightly for awhile, the **angry hand** came to violently attack the back of my head, and the **red spots** grew larger and larger.