

Everybody's got a story. Isn't it time you wrote yours?

I felt that I was already capturing the meaning of the photos in my albums, but *The Photo Scribe* inspired me to new levels of **photo-journaling**. This practical step-by-step guide can enable anyone to discover the depths of one's memories.

— Rhonda Anderson, Co-founder, Creative Memories

MEMORY WRITING & GATHERING MATERIALS FROM SOLEIL LIFESTORY NETWORK

- * The Photo Scribe: A Writing Guide / How to Write the Stories Behind Your Photographs, \$19.95
128 pages of step-by-step photo-journaling exercises, examples, instructions. Friendly tone details how to write short meaningful narratives to expand on photos in albums and memory books. 40+ contemporary and period photos.
- * The Photo Scribe® Memory Binder, \$21.95
90 page workbook / binder is a customized three-ring binder and a companion to The Photo Scribe. Designed to organize photoscribing projects-in-process, it features exercises, worksheets, and indexed sections to complement and supplement The Photo Scribe. Includes sturdy photo and artifact pockets.
- * Writing Great Cameo Narratives in Five Easy Steps, \$9.95
Writing Great MemoryLists in Five Easy Steps, \$9.95
A double-sided worksheet for workshops or a self-exercise for scrapbook photoscribes. 100 of one title per gummed pad gives you plenty to use and share. Start-to-finish journaling—these worksheets make it easy to record details and express experiences in your own words. They make for instant classes, too!

* FREE e-mail Newsletter—The Lifewriter's Digest

Published on a monthly basis, this FREE newsletter is full of tips, advice and news for recording your personal history. Subscribe by sending your e-mail address to: pstld@turningmemories.com

Tempted to write a longer narrative?

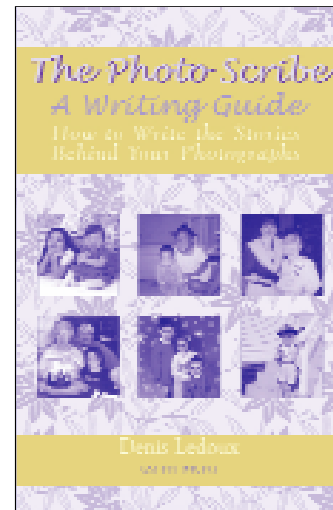
- * Turning Memories Into Memoirs, a Handbook for Writing Lifestories, \$24.95
272 pages of how-to information, containing everything you need to remember, record, and write your memoirs. Helpful exercises, accounts of workshop experiences, excerpts from workshopers' lifestories, and 100+ evocative historical photos.

SOLEIL LIFESTORY NETWORK

95 Gould Road Lisbon Falls, ME 04252 ♦ telephone: 207-353-5454
e-mail: pstld@turningmemories.com ♦ www.turningmemories.com

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TIPS FROM *The Photo Scribe* WRITING ADVICE FOR SCRAPBOOKERS



Do you have hundreds, sometimes thousands, of photographs tucked away in boxes or stashed in your albums? When you share these photos with family and friends, you tell what you remember about the stories behind the pictures, but it seems that every year, you remember less and less. Aren't your stories just waiting to grow dim and be forgotten?

When the lifestories pictured in your albums are told, not written, they exist only as long as the words hang in the air.

Shouldn't you take the time to write them for your family, for future generations—and for yourself?

You Can Write Your Stories

Anyone can learn to photoscribe. And everyone should! It's fun. It's creative. And—it's just as important as preserving the image itself.

Photoscribing is the process of adding meaningful text to albums. When you photoscribe, you write down personal and family stories, and you save information and details about people and events and experiences. You can also photoscribe the stories for which you have no photos.

Cameo narratives are a basic tool you need to transform your albums into lasting lifestory records. Cameo narratives are short texts (usually between 50–150 words) that accompany group of photos or even just one photo.

Cameo Narratives

- * **Add depth and meaning** to your photos.
- * **Unfold the action** the picture suggests.
- * **Depict a larger scene** than the one caught on film.
- * **Record the facts and flavor** of your life and the lives of your family, friends, and ancestors.

Writing
Great Cameo Narratives
~ Ten Simple Steps ~

1. Make a MemoryList of everything you remember about the photo(s) you are working with.

Jot down words and phrases (3-5 words). Resist the urge to “do it right.” Anything you remember is important enough to include on this MemoryList. Your goal is to remember your life at the time of the photos so that when you come to write, you have lots to say. At this stage, however, it is not yet time to organize those facts and details.

2. Group your “go together” photos.

(Max’s baby pictures, Grandmother Rose’s 70th birthday, etc.) Linger with them for a while. Ask, Who is in the photo and who was at the event but is not in the photo or not at the event? (Why?) Why were these people together? What is this event’s importance? What were/are the relationships that make these people and their being together special? Add these memory details to your Memory List (#1).

3. Describe as many of your five senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) as you can in your list.

By including this sensory-specific info, you recreate vivid memories for yourself and your audience (those who will share your album now and in the future.)

4. List the actions that occurred at and around the time of the photo(s).

A Cameo Narrative can recall any relevant action—not just what happened in the moment of the photo but what occurred before and after the snapshot.

5. Jot down remembered or possible conversations.

When you include dialog in a Cameo Narrative, the characters in the photo seem to speak aloud. Caution: resist the phony, cute phrases that anyone can come up with. Instead, take a moment to hear your mother, child or friend speaking in your memory and write down their words and tone of voice.

Writing

- * **action...** Showing, not telling, action can make your cameos leap off the page. Write: “he reached out and squeezed my hand,” not “he was so kind.”
- * **dialogue...** Place the voices that echo in your memory in your albums. Everyone you know has a unique speech and sound. Let their voices be heard!

6. Double check your facts and memories.

Use all the props you can (letters, diaries, obituaries, photos, certificates, newspaper articles, etc.) to get details when your own memory is insufficient. If possible, ask people who were there to verify your memories. When you’ve crosschecked, you’re ready to start writing.

7. Be specific.

Use proper names, give dates, mention relationships. Avoid generic labels like “tree.” Instead, write “maple” or “oak.” Part of being specific in your writing is showing what you mean instead of telling it. For instance, instead of “Mother was kind” show her in action: “Mother drove Aunt Lucy to the doctor every week that winter.”

8. Describe the setting—the *place* and *time* shown in your photos.

It’s a dull cameo narrative that just repeats what’s visible in the photo: “There was a tree beside the house.” Take it further: “The chestnut was planted by my grandfather, Vito Ancona, in 1940.”

Your photos may have cultural elements unknown to the observer, so bring customs back to life: “On holidays, we always ...and that is why Grandpa Fred is...” If a photo portrays a daily action that is no longer familiar, describe it: “Great-Grandma is cleaning the pan under the icebox that caught the drips from the melting block of ice.”

9. Be choosy in your final copy.

Cameo Narratives are short texts. Choose one element for each Cameo Narrative you write—a description, an action, a character portrait or a dialogue. Remember: simplicity is always best. You can write many cameo narratives in one album—so any one cameo narrative doesn’t have to say it all.

10. Be a show off.

Use all your scrapbooker’s skills to put your photos and cameo narratives together so everyone you love can see what a great job you’ve done. Congratulations! You deserve their praise!

- * **setting...** All the features of place, time, emotional and psychological context are a part of setting.
- * **character...** The unique details of personality and character that most make memories come alive are not expressed in words like ‘nice’ and “tall” but in specific descriptions like “gruff, barking laugh” and “gawky big strides across the room.”

Elements