

How to Teach with Confidence



by Denis Ledoux

“How do people teach Turning Memories Into Memoirs® Workshops with any confidence if they have not come to a training program?” I was asked last week by an Affiliate teacher during the Montréal Turning Memories® teacher-training workshop.

I don't know.

The training program is an effective, shortcut way to jumpstart the process of becoming a dynamic teacher in your community.

If you are serious about launching—or revitalizing—your work as a lifewriting teacher, plan now to attend one of our workshops in the spring. They include:

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1. The Introductory Turning Memories Into Memoirs® Workshop. This one is for both Affiliates who plan to become Certified (a necessary component) and for beginning lifewriters, and it demonstrates the Turning Memories® method. Individuals leave with all they need to successfully complete their lifestories—and lead lifewriting workshops. Ample writing and discussion time characterizes this week-long session. Dates for 2003 are April 6–11, 2003.

2. The Advanced Turning Memories Into Memoirs® Lifewriting Retreat Week. This workshop is designed for those who have begun memoir projects or have attended the basic Turning Memories Into Memoirs® program. Shaping and pacing a collection of stories and such story elements as voice, point of view, tone, symbolism, imagery, and other literary

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techniques will be discussed in the context of daily Turning Memories® group editing.

This workshop is a requirement for Soleil Master Writer and the Soleil Master Teacher Certification and will be held May 4–9, 2003.

3. Soleil Lifestory Network Summer Institute (June 18-27, 2003) consists of the Business Supports Seminar (June 18–21) and the Turning Memories Into Memoirs® Workshop (June 22–27).

Together, the Turning Memories® Lifewriting Workshop, and the Business Supports Seminar provide first-hand experience and solid professional development for those who want to benefit from our years of writing, teaching and business experience.

In all our workshops, the process emphasizes collegial sharing in a mutually supportive and constructively critical atmosphere. Writers often achieve new understandings and clarity on lingering problems. Those who encounter familiar blocks in another's manuscript find that the gentle probing of group editing can clear the way for them to move ahead with their own challenges.

Complementary follow-up Tele-Class sessions maintain writing-group contact and heighten the prospect of finishing memoir projects.