

# Preserving A Legacy

## Written Method

Books have been around for centuries and stand as a testament to the durability of written documentation. Therefore, leaving a legacy by preserving it in writing makes perfect sense. It's one of the easiest, most lasting ways to ensure that our accomplishments are remembered long after we are gone.

### a. How to write everything down

What's really neat about smartphones is that you can quickly store memos in the Notepad app and even better, most phones come with voice-to-text capabilities so you can speak words onto a page.

One way to document your loved one's answers to your line of questioning is to allow them to answer while your phone transcribes what they're saying (voice-to-text). Iphone and Samsung each have their own software so do your research into which app works best for you! (Check out [iPhone](#) speech-to-text, or [Samsung](#) audio-to-text).

Another great way to utilize your smartphone is to send out daily, weekly, or monthly memo template questions to your loved ones through text message, email, or social media. Not only can you collect all the texts they send back, but these could also turn into an amazing personal diary (check out our resources below). It's an incredible concept that not everyone knows about, so be sure to give it a go!

For DIY memoir writers: the same concept applies to you if you're trying to record your own thoughts. Get your ideas and comments out onto the page using speech-to-text and later go back and revise them to fit in a hard copy or digital page. Leaving behind something for your family requires lots of work, why not make the process smoother by using your incredibly advanced tools?

### b. Tips and Tricks to Writing Down a Legacy

Here are a few steps necessary to solidify your family legacy in a written format:

1. Create a list of questions that are easy to answer, but engage in conversation.
  - a. **Conversation:** take a notebook and pen to jot down key points in the conversation or recollection (autobiography/biography style). We highly

recommend recording the conversation using dictation on a smartphone (Link for [iPhone dictation setup](#). Link to [Samsung dictation setup](#).) or follow our tips in the audio training we created.

- b. **Text message/email prompts:** A simple and long lasting way of documenting the answer to a deep question. Remind the interviewee that they can speak the message using voice-to-chat methods if they're using a smartphone.
2. Find a storage space for all your answered questions.
    - a. **Memo books:** a quick way to write down answers to questions by collecting them in a neat and organized location. It's your semi-organized way of keeping those stories and lessons close by and readily accessible.
    - b. **Digital Note files:** your phone can also be safe storage for a quick collection of answers (though we still recommend writing these down in a physical notebook just in case). Create bins/folders of the topic of conversation such as: married life, raising kids, career, passions, failures and successes, etc.
  3. Organize the answers into a story:
    - a. There isn't a wrong way to do this. Find a way that best suits you and your family's expectations of hearing their legacy. Take time to review the answers and filter which have greater impact and relatability. Piecing answers together could be
      - *biographical* (time based: early childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, adult, elder)
      - *story based* (hero is faced with a challenge, goes through a period of suffering/adventure, finds answer, comes out victorious)
      - *theme based* (all stories pertaining to love, or trials, or family life, or work life, etc.)

Review the resources below to see which tools can help record and organize your family members' memoirs.

c. *Resources for advancement*

1. *Printing shops:* One example is [Vistaprint](#) allows you to create tons of neat gifts for your loved ones including books/booklets that you can customize yourself with family pictures. Or [Mixam](#), which is a more focused DIY printing service that allows you to send digital files, such as notes, to create your memoir book at a relatively inexpensive cost.

2. [StoryWorth](#): This company does the writing service FOR you. Storyworth sends question prompts directly to you every week for you or a loved one to answer. By the end of the year, they'll have 52 astonishing answers that will be compiled into a beautiful Memo book. Taking the hard work out of documenting your life, all you have to focus on is collecting pictures to complete it!
3. [Transcribing services](#): this step is assuming you have recorded audio either alone or with video. By recording audio you can now convert that to text by using software such as [Otter.ai](#) or [Descript](#) that transcribes audio to text. Samsung phones have transcription installed in their voice recorders which makes writing your memo's into a digital folder incredibly easy. You can find the link to audio-to-text on Samsung [here](#) or iPhone speech-to-text [here](#).

Take a dive into learning what tools can make this easier for you and your loved ones. Now you have enough to create a memoir book that collects the best lessons and stories for your family!

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