

## **Is it Best to Have a Life Story Written as an Autobiography or a Biography?**

There are significant differences in these two types of books. The following descriptions provide information that will be helpful in determining which one is the best format for you.

**Autobiography:** A life story in an autobiography format is written in first-person. It is based on our telephone-recorded interviews. The recordings are transcribed. Then, we edit the transcripts to take out the interviewer's questions, and weave the words into a narrative. The manuscript, which may be lightly edited or heavily edited, remains in first-person.

The resulting narrative is based only on the interview of the subject of the book. Because the book is written from the first-person viewpoint, autobiographies generally require more pages than a biography to tell the story. Some people find autobiographies less objective and perhaps not as enjoyable to read as biographies. But an autobiography is still a good method to preserve a life story.

**Biography:** A life story in a biography format is written in third-person. It is based on interviews recorded with the subject of the book. Interviews are often conducted at his or her home or office, although interviews can be done by phone. We also interview others (spouse, children, grandchildren, friends, business associates, etc.) and weave their comments into the manuscript.

To write a biography, the author will draw from all the interview transcripts, as well as other memorabilia such as newspaper clippings, historical documents, awards, etc. A comprehensive original manuscript is professionally written in a compelling style of storytelling. The subject's direct quotations are also used extensively.

Because writing biographies requires greater writing skill and more effort, they also require a greater investment.

**Legacies & Memories**  
**888.862.2754**