

THE LEGACY LETTER

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FROM THE DESK OF THE FOUNDER

A Note from Antonette

Every family has a story no one ever wrote down. A client calls because their mother passed and they cannot find the words. A daughter who sat with her father for years and never thought to ask about his childhood. We plan for everything in life except the record of it. This spring, the Legacy Letter is about how to start. Not a perfect memoir — just the first honest question. If something here moves you to sit down with someone you love and simply begin, that is the whole point.

With care,

Antonette N. Hubbard, MHA | Founder & CEO, PSR Writing LLC

FEATURE

How to Capture a Life Story

Five things worth writing down before it's too late.

01

Start with the ordinary.

It is the everyday details that disappear first: the smell of a grandmother's kitchen, the sound of a father's laugh, the ritual of a Sunday morning. Ask about the small things. That is where the real story lives.

02

Ask three questions that matter.

"What was the hardest thing you ever got through?" "What do you wish you had known sooner?" "What do you want people to remember about you?" These three questions alone can fill pages.

03

Write in their voice, not yours.

Resist the urge to polish. Use their words, their rhythms, their idioms. The best legacy writing sounds like the person it honors, not a summary of them.

04

Let the contradictions stay.

Real lives are complicated. Leave the complexity in — the love that was imperfect and lasting at once, the choice that was wrong and then right. That is what makes a story true.

05

Give it a place to live.

A story written on a napkin and lost is still lost. Commit to a form — a letter, a tribute, a professionally written obituary or poem. What is not preserved is not passed on.

THIS SEASON'S WRITING PROMPT

"Think of someone whose voice you would give anything to hear again. What would you ask them if you had one hour? Write the question — then write the answer as best you can remember it."

Set a timer. Fifteen minutes. Do not edit while you write.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT

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Every legacy writing project begins with a free 20-minute consultation.

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