



Book Writing Circle

Kick-start Your Memoir

From June 1st 2021 3-5pm UK

"Thank you for your expertise, good humor, insightful analysis and feedback. I look forward to finishing that book and making you proud."

Becky, Colorado, USA

"Jo gathered an inspirational group together who supported and helped each other and continue to meet as they move forward to final draft."

Gwen, Houston, USA

"A wonderful journey. I didn't expect it to be this much fun."

Jacinta, Haarlem, Netherlands

"Amazing group. Jo provided practical skills, materials and support. It really helped my brain 'see' where I was going but just as importantly 'how' I could do it."

Shellee, Devon, England

Program description

This three-month program (6 x 2-hour sessions, held every other week plus a seventh and subsequent session) is designed to help a hand-picked group of four wannabe authors kick start their book writing journey. As an experienced editor and publisher, I have been working one-to-one with new authors for almost two decades and realise that the start of the process is pretty much the same for everyone. Since running group sessions I have witnessed the power of the group setting for engagement, accountability and productivity. Divided into easy-to-absorb segments with homework tasks that build on each other and encourage constant revision, this program will help authors get started.

The program will get you into a habit of working on your book and seeing how much can be achieved in a short space of time. You will learn simple basics (not just the words on the paper, but the process of writing a book) about the nuts and bolts of writing a memoir: the organisation, the content, voice, market, focus, style and layout.

Each of the two-weekly sessions will be spent in learning, sharing, time just for you in 'the hot seat', tools, tips, tricks, templates, peer and personal feedback. You will always receive at least one task for homework and will have deadlines to meet requiring you to devote up to two days a month to the project. You will be allocated a buddy you can liaise with between sessions.

By the sixth session you will have defined your Ideal Reader, Focus, Objective and Voice. You will understand the practicalities required to reach final manuscript stage and will have a basis Plot, Theme and Style Sheet and a Work in Progress of one or more chapters ready to move forward and complete the book. You will also have a support network in place. The seventh Q&A session takes place at a later mutually convenient time.

How does it work?

- 1 First you will complete an application form and submit a piece of writing that tells the story of something that has happened to you and might well be in your book.
- 2 I will assess your work to see whether you have already mastered the skills required to write a memoir. In short, whether you can write compelling stories with SPICE (Specifics, Place, Incident, Character, Emotion). If you are ready, you move onto step 3. If not, then:
 - a. You will take my eight-lesson [How To Write Life Stories](#) programme, working 1-1 with me (£250).
- 3 You will be invited to join the next suitable group and told the schedule.
- 4 If the schedule is acceptable you'll be sent a short questionnaire to get you thinking prior to the first session and be asked to source and read three books that are similar in some way to the book you hope to write. Again, this must be completed before the first session.

- 5 You will be invited to the first session using Zoom and will notice all sessions use the same meeting ID and password.
- 6 After the sixth session you will be encouraged to continue working on your books as a group and to jointly set a date for a seventh session once you will have written at least four chapters. This will take place 8-10 weeks hence.
- 7 After the program you will be prioritised for working 1-1 with me in the future.

Program outline



Before you start:

Buy three books that are similar in genre and content to the one you hope to write and read them.

Complete a questionnaire.

Week 1:

Getting Started – outlining your idea and finding your story

Week 2:

Planning and presenting your work – finding pearls

Week 3:

Plots and pinches – tension, themes and page-turning

Week 4:

The characters

Week 5:

The settings and stringing pearls

Week 6:

Feedback

Week 7:

Review WIP (Work in Progress) and question time

Pre-requisites and selection process

This program is for people who already know they want to write a memoir and have a reasonable idea of their focus and market.

You will be prepared to commit up to two days a month to the program.

You accept that students are hand-picked to join an appropriate group of peers, which means it may take a few months for you to be able to start.

You are prepared to commit to handing in homework on time and reading the work of the other participants.

What you pay

Fee: £700



What you receive

- Seven two-hour sessions held over a four-month period
- Up to three hours of Jo's time assessing your work (worth £450)
- Feedback and support of the group
- Homework, session notes and templates
- Priority consideration working with Jo on a one on one basis after the program for £150 an hour or £950 for seven hours

Interested?

- Email Jo@joparfitt.com