

The (unofficial) mwe Manual

Edited by Sharon Kimble

December 31, 2022

Contents

1 prompts	1
1.1 Prompts To Prepare You	1
1.1.1 educational	1
1.2 Prompts To Inspire You	2
1.2.1 Things That Matter To Us All	2

1 prompts

1.1 Prompts To Prepare You

1.1.1 educational

1. Keep a journal. Capture events so that they're there for you in 20 years' time. What's more, journal keeping is a discipline that maintains a writing practice.
2. Find inspiration in photographs. A picture can help us recall past events. Take a look at your phone. What were you doing 5 years ago today? Use the 'search' facility to find something obscure - a cherry, a ski, an ice cream. What memories do the images evoke?
3. Interview people. Friends and family, especially the elderly, are not only full of memories but also often keen to share them. Make a cup of tea and, with their permission, turn on a discrete voice or video recorder while you chat about the past.
4. Take inspiration from the space around you. What keepsakes do you have around you right now? Are they connected in any way? What story do they tell about you?

5. Identify the story. An event may be of great interest but what stories are there to tell? What happened before and after the event? What impact did it have on you and others?
6. Recall a moment of conflict. Disagreements make for drama, and dramatic tension keeps a reader engaged.
7. Write about a moment or period of emotional change. Think of a time when you moved between happiness and sadness. Engaging drama is about emotional transition. . .
8. Write about transformation. Can you recall a moment when your fundamental beliefs and opinions about something were changed? Perhaps you suddenly started - or stopped - believing in God?
9. Identify who you're writing for. What questions would they have about the memories you're describing?

1.2 Prompts To Inspire You

1.2.1 Things That Matter To Us All

1. Life and/or death. There's little else of such significance. Have you had a near-death experience? What is your experience of witnessing birth or death?
2. What is your experience of good and ill health? Have you ever been diagnosed with a significant condition? In what way did it change you, physically, mentally and emotionally? How were those around you affected by it?
3. When did you first (or last!) fall in love? Who, or what, was it with?
4. Comedy or tragedy? Drama exists in both. Can you write about a funny situation? What caused it? What impression did it leave on you or others? If you can bring yourself to write about tragedy, how did it affect you? Was the process of writing about it cathartic?