

WRITE YOUR BIO

It doesn't matter if you plan to mass publish this book or not, writing your bio clarifies your purpose and who you think you are. Chances are, you will write a boring bio the first time. Sorry, but it's true. We don't give ourselves enough credit, we downgrade our accomplishments to be humble and not offend family members or friends who tend to do "less" (in your opinion) with their lives. I will ask that you stop that. Be proud of your accomplishments and it doesn't matter what they are. If you are a good cook or home organizer because you spent your life caring for your children, be proud of that! It is your identity so put it in writing and don't worry about what others think.

- Write a bio in the third person.
- Write it to your anticipated readers. If you plan on mass publishing, the bio should be different to the one you will write for a family history memoir with select distribution.
- Include pertinent education and experience if you think it's relevant or important to the book and your readers.
- List provable facts. Don't waste time sharing your dreams.
- Include 2-3 of your most impressive and relevant achievements, unless you are writing an academic book or technical "how to" – then list all the pertinent title, education, and awards.
- People like to hear one quirky fact about you (if appropriate to the book). We all have our quirks and identify with others that have them. But, just share one.

A FEW EXAMPLES FOR INSPIRATION

SOMETHING STRAIGHT-FORWARD: Tanya Ward Goodman grew up at Tinkertown Museum, a roadside attraction built by her father, Ross Ward, in the mountains of New Mexico. She attended Northwestern University and currently lives in Los Angeles, California with her husband and two children. Her writing has been published in the Los Angeles Times, the "Cup of Comfort" series edited by Colleen Sell for Adams Media, the anthology "My Teacher Is My Hero" and online at Brain, and Child Magazine.

OR MAYBE SOMETHING FUNNY: Eric Carle invented writing, the airplane, and the internet. He was also the first person to reach the North Pole. He has flown to Mars and back in one day and was enthusiastically greeted by the Martians. 'Very strange beings,' he reported on his return. He has written one thousand highly regarded books; a team of experts is presently attempting to grasp their meaning. 'It might take a century,' said the chief expert. Carle is also a great teller of stories — but not all of them are true, for instance those in this book.

OR MAYBE SOMETHING MORE ACADEMIC: Amanda Ripley is an investigative journalist for Time, The Atlantic and other magazines. She is the author, most recently, of The Smartest Kids in the World—and How They Got That Way. Her first book, THE UNTHINKABLE: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes—and Why, was published in 15 countries and turned into a PBS documentary. Her work has helped Time win two National Magazine Awards.



