

A Writer's Check-off List

Personal Experience Story or Testimony

	Focus
	Clear & sharp (one sentence)
	Realistic time frame
	No unnecessary characters or details
	Reader identification
	Relevant, timely, interesting theme
	Title & opening paragraph that grabs attention
	Honest, open, vulnerable writing
	Have all 4 C's of a fiction story
	Character - fully developed
	Conflict - credible problems & obstacles
	Crisis/turning point - avoid "I came to realize"
	Change/resolution - believable & not just internal
	Structure
	Show don't tell
	Effective use of scenes
	Strong opening scene - present main character & problem
	Two or more scenes - develop problem
	Crisis/turning point scene - answer from outside self
	Conclusion - don't belabor
	Used flashbacks sparingly
	Smooth transitions
	Dialogue used effectively
	Strong take away
	Answered the "So what?" question
	Avoided preaching/teaching - story must carry point
	Appropriate use of Scripture & referenced correctly
	Grammar & punctuation
	Avoided cliches, slang, qualifiers (really, very . . .)
	Replaced adverbs with strong verbs
	Removed wordiness, redundancy
	Consistent use of serial commas
	Ready to write/market it?
	Do I have needed perspective?
	Have I lived it?
	Am I prepared for testing that may come?
	Is it God's timing?
	Syntax - read manuscript aloud