

## What are the 3 C's?

- **Conciseness** - scope, 5 W's
- **Continuity** – purpose, perspective, structure, subject matter
- **Clarity** – grammar, wording, keeping to the point



# Let's look at Conciseness



- Scope –

- How much of your story are you including here? Where do you want to begin? Where do you want to end?
- Do you want to include every event that happened then or just one part of it? Do you have a particular event in mind that would make a good story? In other words – an outline might include a bit of a lead-in, the event, the aftermath.
- Do you want to include every person you knew/met in that time frame, or just a few? Would the story about one person you knew or met make a good story?



\*The 5 W's – Actually, there are six. Rudyard Kipling said... “I keep six jolly serving men, they've taught me all I know, They are Who and What and When, And Where and Why and How.

Not only do each of these ideas help tell your story, but they move it along to a good finish



# Let's look at Continuity

- Purpose and Perspective



- Depending on what part of your whole story you are going to tell, will give you your purpose. Is your *purpose* to point out feelings about an event? Is it to clear someone's name? Is it to make a comparison between then and now? How would you like to tell your story? The best *perspective* in memoir writing is the first person... I did this... we did that.... Rather than in the third person as in novels – John/He, Susan/She, etc. I will mention more about *purpose* later on.

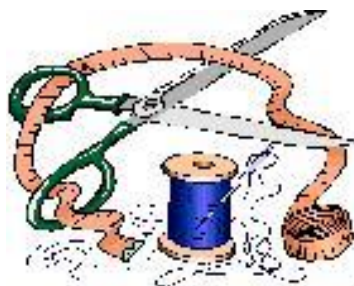
- Structure

- For the purpose of memoir writing – start at the beginning. It's usually only in novels that you start with today and work backwards as events from the past become pertinent. Remember to keep your structure tight and to the point – this is where the gray areas happen between being concise and being clear in your narration, as I mentioned at the beginning about sticking to the point.

- Subject Matter

- whatever your purpose will more or less define your subject matter





# Let's look at Clarity

- **Grammar**

- One of the things we use every day, but when we put thoughts to paper grammar is often forgotten



- **Wording**

- Don't use \$5 words when \$1 words will do. Make sure you know the meaning of any word you are not sure of but think it might fit here. Keep your dictionary handy as you write.

- **Keeping to the point**

- When you are telling a story it is so easy to get off track. If you are telling about Susan, then tell only about Susan, don't start telling about her brother John. Deal with him later.

MUNIFICENT? FREE?





# Getting it all together



- Start with an outline to form a basis from which to work
- Write a first draft. If as you go along you think of something that should have been added, write about it on a separate page and mark it “insert#1”, then go to the place in your story where it should go and mark “insert #1”. Continue adding or deleting in this manner. All of these things can be corrected in the final edition of your story.



- Read and re-read your work as you go along, especially after letting it sit for a day or two – this way you are seeing it through “new eyes” and will likely catch any errors.
- Don't try to do all these things all at once – you'll drive yourself nuts! If you have to re-write, then do it. Hopefully you will be using a computer to compose your work – that's when it's easy! For those of you who use pen and paper – just keep at it. You WILL see the end!



- Don't try to tell a long, long story – not the first time, anyway. Keep it short and simple. Perhaps you need to tell TWO stories! Or THREE!

