



The Memoir Network
helping people turn memories into memoirs

Excerpt from:

Write to the End

Eight Strategies to
Deal with Writer's Block

By Denis Ledoux



5. Read your stories from the beginning to the end and take notes.

Do not work on the story text itself—other than in a very minor way. Ok, I'll admit I change a word here and there and make punctuation corrections while I am re-acquainting myself with a manuscript, but remember that editing is not your priority at the moment.

In the Introduction, I had asked you to find a memoir to read. As much as you can, read your own book manuscript with the consciousness

you brought to and developed from reading that memoir. Read as the reader you are when you read another writer's work.

- ✓ What is it the reader (you) needs to know that has not been included in the writing?
- ✓ Where are the gaps in chronology, in characterization, in detailing?
- ✓ Where have you been too explicit or too critical or too accepting (not critical enough)?
- ✓ How would you wish to see the story develop?
- ✓ Are the characters developed? Are they “stick” characters or full characters?
- ✓ As you are reading, what feelings arise that you ought to incorporate within the memoir? Are there any feelings that you do not wish to describe as you did, that now seem false or too confessional?
- ✓ What images and metaphors do you seem to favor—and is that a good choice or is a better one apparent? If your favorites seem very evident, is this because you are over-using them?
- ✓ Answer other questions, too, any and all that come to mind! For more ideas, see [The Memory List Question Book](#), which is available for free with your basic membership in the Memoir Network.