

## Genealogy Writing by Stage

(Peggy Baldwin for the GFO Writers' Forum)

RESEARCH	WRITE
1. Genealogical research, gathering information	<i>Write about your findings</i>
2. Ask questions and make hypotheses	<i>Write your questions and hypotheses</i>
3. Enter the information you have gathered into your genealogical software	
<b><u>Continue first three steps as many times as needed</u></b>	
4. Print out a chronology or narrative from your genealogical software & look for the themes* in the life of your family or individual.	<i>Write about your family or individual</i>
5. Select a theme and do some research about it.	<i>Write about the theme</i>
6. Integrate your theme research with the life of your family or individual	<i>Write about your subject, supplying the motivation and drama, using good story telling techniques.</i>
<b><u>Continue with the various themes in your subject's life</u></b>	

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\* Themes might be events that occur no matter the time and place – birth, marriage, death, etc. Or they might be events tied to a time and place – wars, economic downturns, travel on the Oregon Trail, etc.