

Retaining the Narrator's Voice: The Push & Pull of Correct and Respect

Definitions: memoir, autobiography, biography, nonfiction books

Editing primarily memoirs (also autobiographies/personal histories)

Goal

Audience

Theme

Use fiction techniques

Hook the reader

Theme

Point of view

Show, don't tell

Narrative and character arcs

Kill the darlings

Basic editing

Revision

Legal liabilities

How do we retain the narrator's voice?

How grammatically correct should a memoir be?

What if a writer is politically incorrect?

When do we edit a narrator's language to avoid offending readers? Or do we?

Do we avoid publishing/editing a book if a client retains something offensive?

If we're too politically correct, do we do our readers a disservice?

Do we diminish the narrator's struggle by sanitizing history?

Does the editor have a responsibility to fact-check claims in the book?

Disclaimers