

Writing a reflective statement.

Most persons start by framing their biography around a chronology of their career, starting with the early years and education and ending with the retirement years.

If you focus on the WHO, HOW and WHY of the critical events, you will have a more interesting and valuable piece than if you only focus on WHAT. It is OK to include personal information, such as your feelings about issues, or your outside interests and family activities. It is especially good to show how you influenced (or were influenced by) outside factors such as industry conditions, administrative policies, mentors, students, etc. An occasional anecdote can reflect the personality of the author (or of the subject of the anecdote).

Here is a short list of questions to stimulate your thinking as you write. But you decide how your story is to be told.

- 1) When did you start working in poultry veterinary medicine? Why?
 - a) Who introduced you to veterinary medicine?
 - b) How were you introduced to poultry? By whom?
 - c) How did you decide on your educational path? Who influenced you?

- 2) What was the state of the poultry industry when you began your career?
 - a) What were some of your early experiences with industry? With colleagues? With mentors?
 - b) What diseases were most important and why?
 - c) Compare these early observations with the current state of the industry.

- 3) What were some of the big challenges in your career?
 - a) How did things improve? What was your role?
 - b) Lack of knowledge, lack of money, lack of methods to determine diagnoses or treatments. Did these things play roles in your career?

- 4) What were the most exciting times during your career?
 - a) What conditions (events) in the poultry industry contributed to those times? What was your role? How did this affect you?
 - b) How did the important events in your career influence you?
 - i) What did you think when you first heard about them?
 - ii) Did you recognize their importance at the time?
 - c) What achievements of your own or of your group altered the course of poultry health? Of your career? What achievements are you most proud of?

- 5) If you could do your career over, what would you do differently? What would you do exactly the same way? And this includes your retirement years.

- 6) What message would you give to the next generation? Any wisdom? Any warnings?

7) What do you do for fun? How has your family life contributed to your career? What do you do when you need to think?