



Prompters to Life

presents

Your Family Story:

Researching and Telling Family Stories

Your Family Story

This five part workshop takes students through research topics and techniques in family history research culminating in one or more stories about their family history. These can be presented in written form or in an alternative presentation modality, eg., graphic novel, animated short or “white board” presentation, short video.

Part One: The Research (two sessions)

- 1) Family Tree
 - a. Collect the following information for as many of your relatives as possible
 - i. First and last name when they were born
 - ii. Date of birth, date of death, location of birth and death
 - iii. Who were their biological parents and/or adoptive parents
 - iv. Who was their spouse
 - v. Who were their children, biological and/or adoptive
 - b. Use an online application, eg., Ancestry on your iPad, to transcribe information into a family tree
- 2) Family Movement Map: Plot family movements
 - a. For each of your relatives, get the following location information
 - i. Birth and death location with dates (actual or estimates)
 - ii. Location and date of each significant life event incl. marriage
 - iii. Location of each living location with date ranges (start and end). This would include any location which was not deemed to be a vacation even if it was temporary. Eg., school in a different city.
 - iv. Reasons for each move. For example, a forced move to a refuge camp because of war would indicate both the location moved to as well as the reason
 - v. Mode of travel for each mode.
 - b. Using different colours to identify different families or family groups
 - i. Draw lines between locations along with dates and reasons and modes written on the lines themselves.
 - ii. If there is a lot of movement, you might create more than one map with each one representing a geographical region and/or a timeframe. For example, *Movement in the 1800s in Europe*. This would keep any individual map from becoming too cluttered.
- 3) Local and Global Events: Associate with Family Movements
 - a. Identify regional events associated with family movements, especially those which might have had a direct impact on movement. For example, war or economic recession or famine
 - b. Identify global events associated with relevant timeframes, especially those which might have had a direct impact on movement. For example, world wars.
- 4) Gather family anecdotes
 - a. Talk with family members
 - b. Find the family historian, or become it
 - c. Write down or record (video, audio) family stories
 - d. Get pictures, especially old ones
 - e. Get journals, letters

- f. Document assumptions and holes you are filling
- 5) Use Formal Tools
 - a. Ancestry.com: for historical supplement to family stories
 - b. Newspapers.com: for getting info about local happenings
 - c. Google Translate: for translating non-English documents
 - d. Vittle: for animating movement
 - e. Cardflow: digital 3x5 cards
- 6) Record Themes
 - a. Languages
 - b. Religion
 - c. Education
 - d. Disease
 - e. Family Size
 - f. Early death
 - g. Divorce
 - h. Cultural groups
 - i. Professions

Part Two: The Story (two sessions)

- 1) Basic Storytelling: biography, historical fiction, “based on a true story”
- 2) Determine your scope: what part of the story are you telling?
- 3) Outline the Story
- 4) Write the story
- 5) Dialogue
- 6) Historical context
- 7) Filling in plot holes
- 8) Identify themes

Part Three: The Presentation (one to two sessions)

- 1) Written
- 2) Graphic Novel
- 3) Animated Short ← like a modified whiteboard talk
- 4) Video

About the Presenter

Dennis Maione keeps bumping up against cancer. Diagnosed with colorectal tumour as a young, newly-wed student, he thought his subsequent victory would set him up for a straight run at life. A decade later, however, he found out he had a genetic anomaly. Fifteen years after his first diagnosis, the entrepreneur and father of three faced a recurrence of colon cancer, and the second round exacted a higher toll from him than the first. In November of 2017 marked his second 10-year cancer-free anniversary.

Dennis has wrestled a strong enemy with grace, wit, and humour. His first book, *What I Learned from Cancer* (2014, Prompters to Life), chronicles cancer, genetics, and medicine, but mostly hope. Insights into the soul of a cancer survivor abound throughout the narrative, reflective essays, and conversations with a doctor. You'll meet the community around Dennis, including many physicians—good and bad—and heroes in the unlikeliest of places.

Dennis wrote the one-man play *Three Things: Stories About Life* in 2016 with a 5 show run performed in the summer of that year.

His current writing project, *Finding Wholeness*, is the end to the cancer series.

Dennis Maione is an author, speaker, teacher, and actor living in Winnipeg. He has a B.Sc. in Computer Science and two Master's degrees in pastoral theology. When not writing, Dennis delivers seminars for high school students and speaks to groups about finding hope and wholeness in the midst of chronic disease and critical life circumstance. Dennis is a board member of the Manitoba Writers Guild (MWG) and is a member of The Writers' Union of Canada. These days he can also be found on Friday nights managing Station 8 Café, a purveyor of fine coffee and grilled cheese at 325 Talbot avenue.

Dennis Maione
Author and Speaker
204.297.9841
dennis@prompterstolife.com
<http://dennismaione.com>



Price Matrix

One of the keys to the success of this workshop in a variety of schools, with different grades, and with different outcome expectations is flexibility. In the spirit of flexibility, the following price matrix has been drawn up. Because, in all facets of this workshop, I strive to be flexible, this matrix is only a starting point.

Standard Workshop: 5 x 1-hour sessions = **\$400 + GST**

Additional classes of students running concurrently with the first but on the same day = **add \$100 + GST**

Additional classes of students running concurrently with the first but on a different day of the week = **add \$200 + GST**

Additional non-classroom hours, eg., student tutoring, review of written work = **\$75/hr**

Additional workshop days added to the standard 5 days = **\$75/day**

Class set of books (20 or more) = **\$15 per hardcover copy** of *What I Learned from Cancer*.

If your classroom is not in Winnipeg, an additional travel surcharge will be negotiated = **\$variable**

If your school would like to arrange for this workshop—in a condensed and accelerated form—to be presented to your social sciences teachers so that they can teach it themselves that can be arranged. Contact Dennis Maione for availability and pricing.