

Writing for Chicken Soup for the Soul

5 Tips I Learned from Publisher Amy Newmark

1 Start with action

Most stories begin with "throat clearing." Don't tell us what you're going to tell us. Just tell the story.

2 Use oral storytelling with a journalistic approach

Chicken Soup looks for more of a narrative nonfiction style but wants a conversational tone.

3 Cut the fluff

Include only material that moves the story forward. Remove any unnecessary details.

4 Stick to the truth

Stories must be completely true. Don't combine stories. Don't use creative nonfiction.

5 Avoid philosophizing

End on a positive note but let me draw my own conclusions.

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