

The following includes some of the many structures or forms used to write micro-memoir. By no means is this an exhaustive list. You are not required to write using each of these structures, but I suggest you try out a number of them. It may take your writing to unexpected places.

List

- A list of related items that combine to tell a story.
- [“Where I’m From”](#) by George Ella Lyon

Scene

- A mini-story with a beginning, middle, and end that takes place in one location.
- [“Three Oranges”](#) by Tami Mohamed Brown in *Brevity*

Dialogue

- A story written substantially in dialogue and includes minimal explanation, description, etc.
- “Bad Break” by Beth Ann Fennelly, page 51 of *Heating & Cooling*

Research

- A story that is not based solely on first-hand experience but relies on research
- [“When a 17-Year-Old Checkout Clerk in Small Town Michigan Hits on Me, I Think about the Girl I Loved at 17”](#) by Krys Malcolm Belc in *Brevity*

Image/Photograph

- A story that revolves around an image of some kind (from television, painting, magazine, etc.) or a photograph that leads to a story.
- [“Dead Babies Photo”](#) by Tammie M. Kennedy in *Brevity*

Topical

- A story that revolves around a particular topic, supported by multiple experiences.
- [“Bear Fragments”](#) by Christine Byl in *Brevity*

Segmented

- A story told in parts/pieces that combine to tell a larger story.
- “Nine Months in Madison” by Beth Ann Fennelly, pages 55-58 of *Heating & Cooling*

Present tense

- A piece where the main storyline is told in present tense.
- [“Alive”](#) by Laurie Lynn Drummond in *Brevity*

Hermit crab

- A story that uses a form, such as a quiz, resume, legal document, etc., as a shell that holds the text.
- [“Hairy Credentials”](#) by Nicole Cyrus in *Brevity*

Visual

- A story presented in a visual manner outside the typical sentence and paragraph structure, which usually has more blank/white space.
- “I Was Not Going to Be Your Typical” by Beth Ann Fennelly, pages 28-29 of *Heating & Cooling*

Profile

- A story that is a profile of a person, place, or thing, a written portrait of the subject.
- [“Daddy Vérité”](#) by Susan Jackson Rodgers in *Brevity*

Braided

- A story that weaves two or more topics together into one whole.
- [“Fish”](#) by Nicole Walker in *Brevity*

Single sentence

- A story told in one sentence, short or long, that creatively uses punctuation to string it all together.
- “Why I’m Switching Salons” by Beth Ann Fennelly, page 30 of *Heating & Cooling*
- [Complete Sentence](#) has a website full of one-sentence micro-memoirs.

Second person

- A story told using *you*, second person.
- [“If You Find a Mouse in a Glue Trap”](#) by Suzanne Farrell Smith in *Brevity*

Third person

- A story told using third person, *he/she/we/they*.
- [“The Father”](#) by Mary Jones in *Brevity*

Super-short

- A story told in fifty-five words (nano), thirty words (postcard), or less.
- “Returning From Spring Break, Junior Year at Notre Dame” by Beth Ann Fennelly, page 39 of *Heating & Cooling*

Graphic

- A story told in pictures as well as words.
- [“Perdition”](#) by Kristen Radtke in *Brevity*