Memory, Meaning, and the World Around You

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852 PRESS

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Six Word Memoir

For sale: baby shoes, never worn.

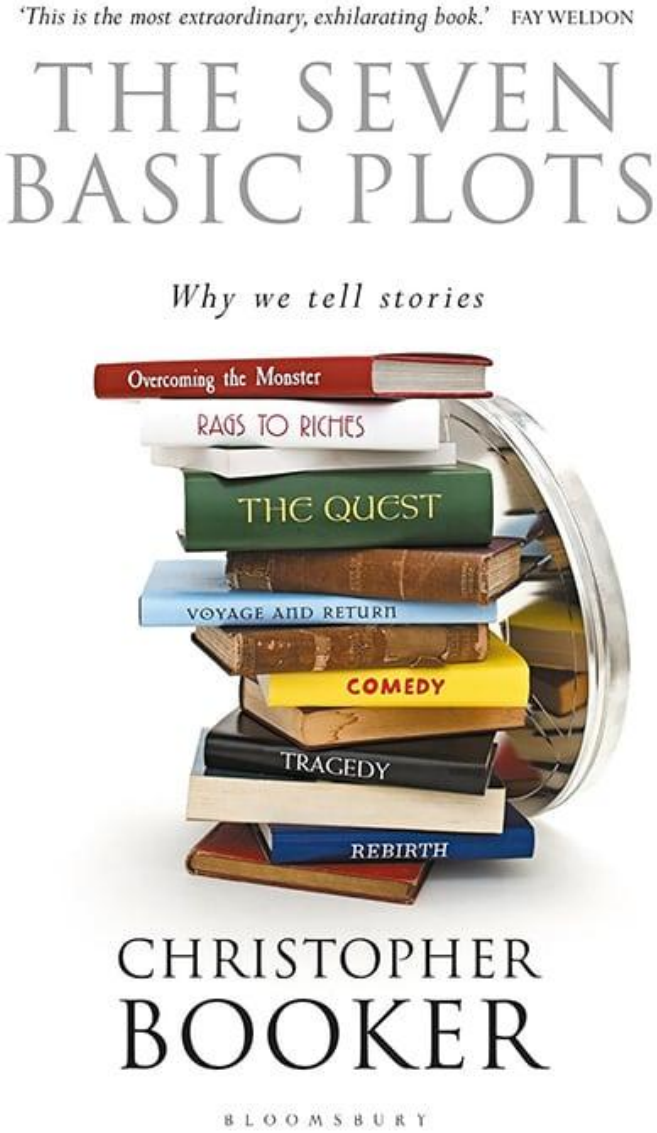
Cursed with cancer, blessed with friends.

I still make coffee for two.

Business school? No! Pop music? Yes!

What is your story about?

- Overcoming the Monster
- Rags to Riches
- The Quest
- Voyage & Return
- Comedy
- Tragedy
- Rebirth




AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION
BALLERINA
ed Svetlana Beriosova, star of
found out about her early
HALFAX CHAMBER
Group criticism of
an invitation to the
be settled. The
to co-opt a
advisory
"I do not
get anywhere
at each
comment
minute
followed
"Evening
of Consumer
ments on
Festival,
magazine
sumer."
ou for sentimental reasons,
e you my heart.
ou, and you alone were mean
Give your loving heart to me
of you every morning, dream
I'm never lonely, whenever
you for sentimental reasons,
iven you my heart.
There.
USICIANS MARRY
R. P. BUREAU—
MISS E. P. ANGEL
FORMER
Richard Pierre Bureau, A.
son of Mr. and Mrs. C.
Bureau of 3 Farm Road, Sut-
ton, Surrey.
The bride, who was given
away by her father, wore a
cream satin dress and carried
a bouquet of white roses, lily-
of-the-valley and freesia.
The bridegroom was Mr.
Richard Pierre Bureau, only
son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C.
Bureau of 3 Farm Road, Sut-
ton, Surrey.
The bride, who was given
away by her father, wore a
cream satin dress and carried
a bouquet of white roses, lily-
of-the-valley and freesia.
She was attended by six
bridesmaids, Miss Marion Fer-
nyh, Miss Lisbet Strickland-
Constable, the Misses Carolyn
and Joanna Nicholls and the
Misses Melanie and
Angel.
They wore dresses of red
velvet with coronets of red
rosebuds, freesia and lily-of-
the-valley and muffs of white
tulle trimmed with lace and
white flowers.
After a reception
min's Hotel
couple left for
honeymoon.
away dress
lime tweed
and black accessories.
Mr. and Mrs. Bure
formed a musical
best man, Mr. C.
is a pianist.
SAN REMO (IM)
POSTE
16-8-67-18
POSTE ITALIANE
SAN REMO (IM)
16-8-67-18
PAR AVION
WORCESTER
7-PM
9 DEC
1953
CRICKLEWOOD
4PM
3 JAN
1957
NW2
Miss E. P. Angel,
c/o Mrs Goodwin,
Edgeworth,
Hawley Lane,
Farnborough,
Hants.
We all wish Phil many happy
returns of his birthday, his present
will come in a few days.
You will be surprised to hear
Mr. Mellor was buried to-day,
he got mixed up with the dogs,
led on so-and-so's at Kellet, tumbled
and broke his thigh, complications
set in & he died Mon, very sad (He was drunk)
Was in Howarths, Wed they
haven't seen her for a week
AIR MAIL
AVION

What Makes a Letter a Letter?

A **letter** is *communication with intention*.

It exists because one person is reaching toward another across **time**, **distance**, or **emotion**.

- **Has a Direction**
- **Is a Moment in Time**
- **Reveals Self-Consciousness**
- **Occupies Space**
- **Waits for a Reply**
- **Endures**



Using Letters

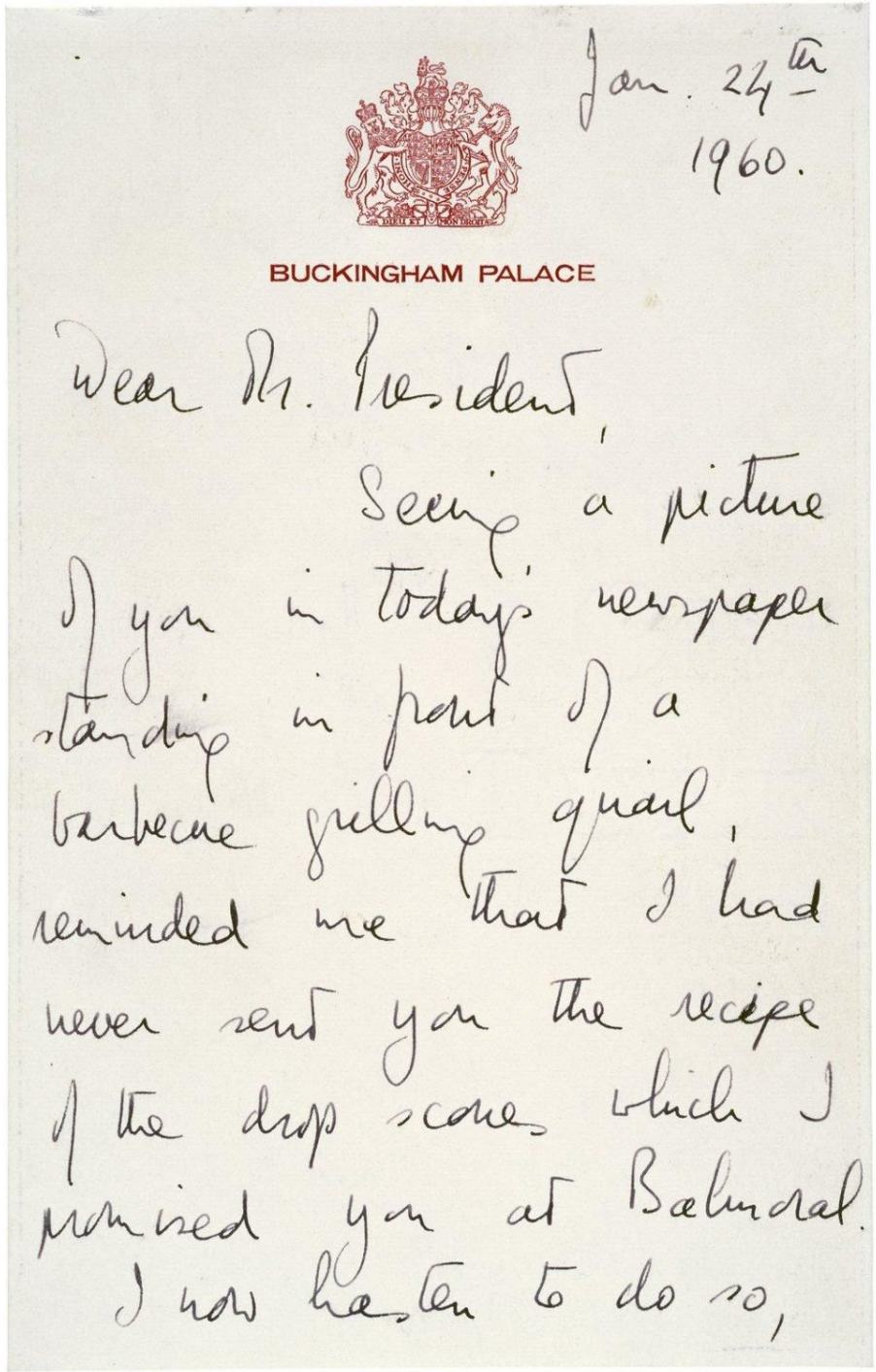
They reveal:
Tone and emotion
Language of the time
Hidden power dynamics
Moments of vulnerability

Reading Between the Lines

Context and Historical Detail

Integrating into Memoir:
Quote directly
Paraphrase
Reflect
Respond





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Jan. 24th
1960.

Dear Mr. President,

Seeing a picture of you in today's newspaper standing in front of a barbecue grilling quail, reminded me that I had never sent you the recipe of the drop scones which I promised you at Balmoral.

I now hasten to do so,

Dear Mr. President

Seeing a picture of you in today's newspaper, standing in front of a barbecue grilling quail, reminded me that I had never sent you the recipe of the drop scones which I promised you at Balmoral.

I now hasten to do so, ...


COVID-19
TESTING
CENTRE

Your Story and The World



When does your story take place?

What are the key years?

What was happening around the world at the same time your story takes place?

How do historical, cultural and social shifts influence your story?

History

War, Migration Waves, Decadal Themes & Global Moments (significant deaths, Berlin Wall, Y2K, 9/11 & Covid19).

Cultural Shifts

Generations, Innovation and Technology, Politics and Policies, Religion, Globalisation, Economics, Nature of Work & Media.

Social Movements

Feminism, Civil and Indigenous Rights, LGBTQIA+, Animal Rights, Environment & Culture Wars



Show, Not Tell Time

**How do you show time –
the past, present, and future
– in creative writing?**



Show, Not Tell Time

- Communication & Language
- Music, Fashion & Popular Culture
- Technology
- Currency & What We Were Spending It On
- Activities & Lifestyle
- The World Around Us (weight of history, push of the present, pull of the future)



Writing Exercise

The World at the Time

Describe the year and what was happening in the world around you when…

- You had your first romantic kiss.
- The first music you purchased.
- Your first mobile phone.





Ethics of Remembering, Consequences of Forgetting

What challenges are you facing with your writing project?

What are the causes?



Writing About People

Is it true?

Will it harm?

Is it fair? Does it reveal past injustices or create potential future problems?

Perceived as a betrayal?

Break any laws or rules?

Are you prepared to accept the consequences?



Writing About People

- Understand and address with other people's apprehension.
- Seek permission to share other people's stories.
- Change names and places.
- Use nicknames or titles (for example, *the doctor*)
- Combine people into one character.




#1
?
#8
#12
EXHIBIT #6
#3
#10
RELATED?
THE WASHINGTON POST
MISSING PERSON TOPS AUGUST NEWS
Alan Millen disappears
#4
EXHIBIT 2
#7
EXHIBIT 13

Mind The Gaps

In your memoir project, what is known?

What evidence and facts do you have available to you?

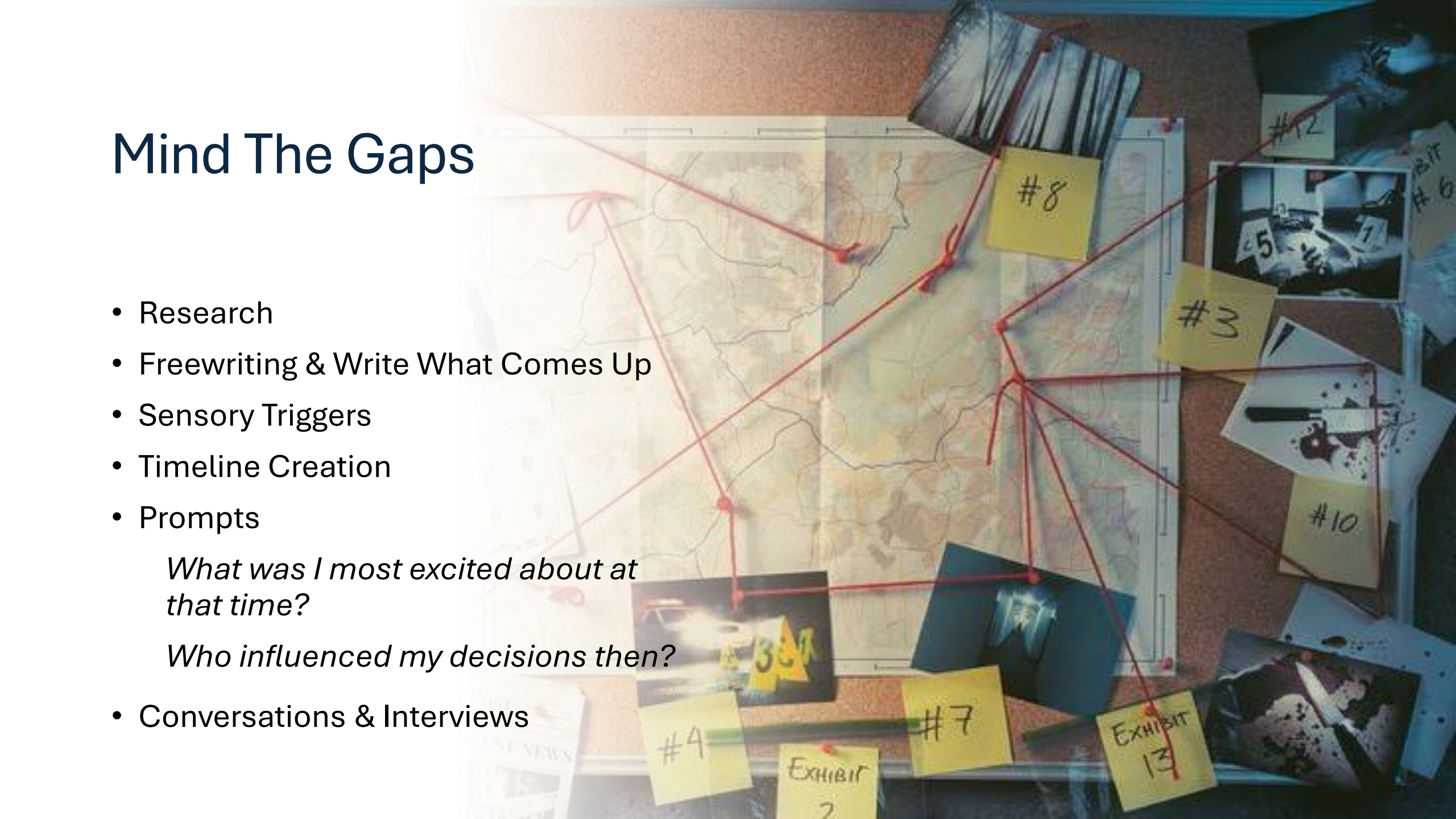
What is unknown?

Do the gaps need to be filled? Are they critical to the story?

How can I fill the gaps, so the story remains authentic?



Mind The Gaps



- Research
- Freewriting & Write What Comes Up
- Sensory Triggers
- Timeline Creation
- Prompts

  What was I most excited about at that time?

  Who influenced my decisions then?

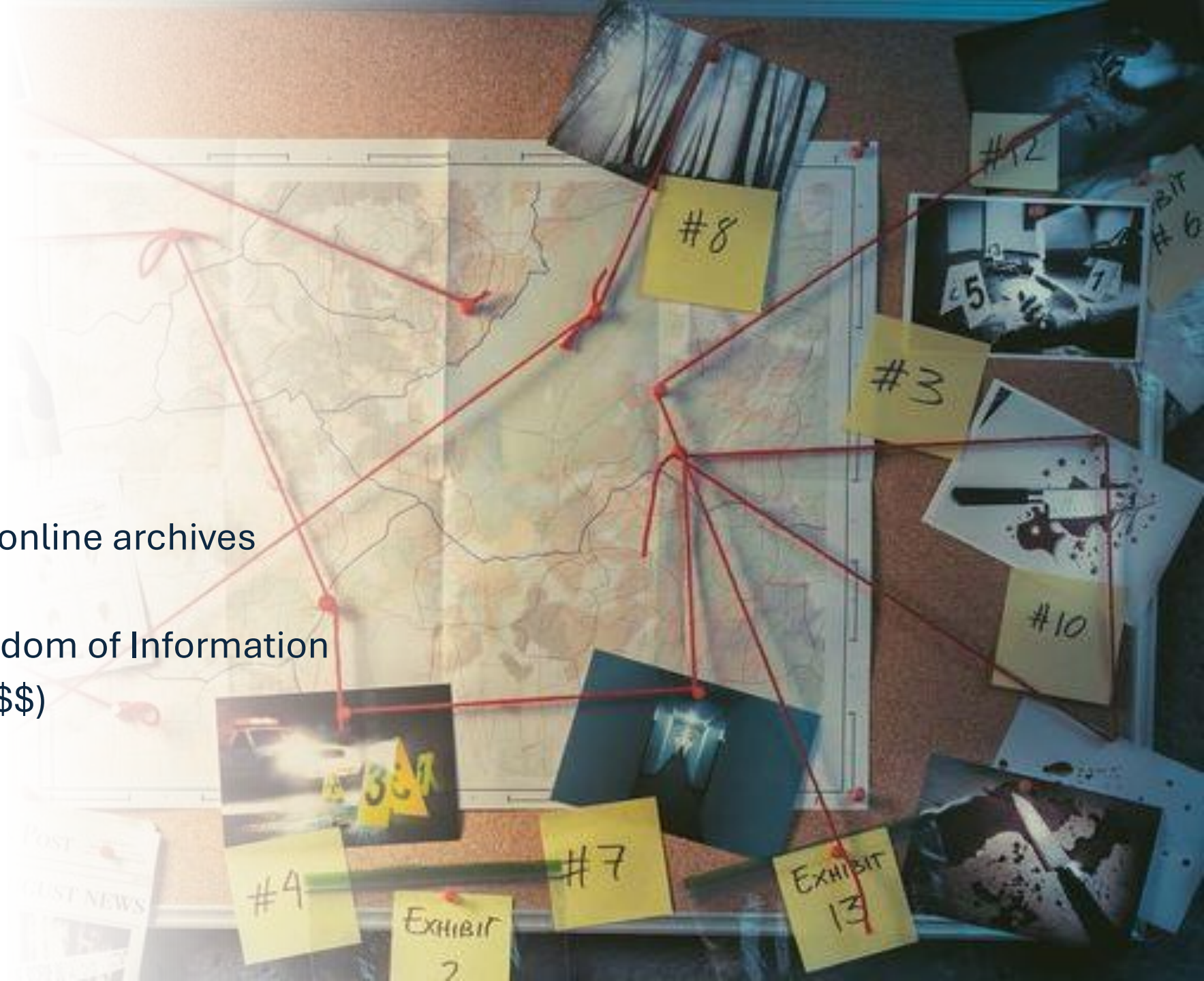
- Conversations & Interviews

Research Techniques

Citing & Permissions

Research Tools

- Museums, libraries & online archives
- Historical societies
- Public records or Freedom of Information
- Genealogy websites ($$)
- Perplexity AI





https://www.perplexity.ai/

Conversational search engine answer queries using sources from the web and cites links within the text response.

What are the ships in the Cunard fleet and where are they based?

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8	Expect to complete **eight drafts**. This is the fine-tuning process making your manuscript the best it can be. Includes writing, editing, developing title and logline, cover and internals.
5	Gather and reflect on at least five different **Beta Readers** (trusted friends and family) or a **formal assessment** (from a writing association or professionals).
2	Involve at least **two experts**, with one being an **editor** and the other a **subject matter expert** to ensure your story is accurate or plausible.

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