

**Some Questions Classmates Ask Themselves About
Writing Memorial Articles
September 2026**

Do I want to have a Memorial Article written about me? A Memorial Article is for the benefit of the survivors, not the deceased. It provides classmates with the opportunity to honor you as someone special in their lives. It makes your family proud and helps to soften the grieving process. It gives friends new insights into your life. It provides future generations with what little they might know about their ancestor who graduated from West Point.

Should writing a Memorial Article be a priority for my time? A memorial article is only 650-900 words, much of which includes basic information about your family, childhood, military service, and post-military career. You could dictate or document most of this information from memory in a few hours. It may take your classmates and grieving family weeks of research and coordination to obtain the same information after you have passed. A little of your time now will be a great blessing to them in the future.

If I write my own MA, am I not boasting about myself? The tone of your memorial article will be whatever you want it to be. In addition to accomplishments, it is common for an MA to include life's challenges and setbacks. If you write your own Memorial Article, you get to highlight the important aspects of your life. No one will know whether the final MA in TAPS was self-written or accomplished by a classmate.

Many in my class are very accomplished. Do I really want my life compared to them? Your life accomplishments and challenges in the military, industry, community, and with your family are uniquely different from those of the other 800 members of our class. That is what makes your Memorial Article so valuable and interesting to the reader. Graduation was the last day that we were ranked against our classmates.

Am I still capable of writing a 650-900-word composition? The greatest challenge in writing is putting the first words on a blank sheet of paper. Once you get started, it becomes much easier. An old career bio, resume, yearbook, or reunion submission can give you a great start. Do your best, send your draft to your company rep or trusted classmates, and let them help. Some classmates may have personal input, while others may be skilled at writing or experienced with tools like artificial intelligence. Sharing your life with classmates and future generations can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience.