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Commanding Prose

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Commanding Prose
Books Authored By Our Presidents

Our visual memory as Americans includes several striking images of presidents as writers. Who can forget Mark Twain's poignant recollection in his *Autobiography* of Ulysses S. Grant's final days, penciling the last "plums and spices" of his *Personal Memoirs* before succumbing to throat cancer; or the image of John F. Kennedy working on a draft of *Profiles in Courage* in a hospital bed? The most highly-published president, by far, is Theodore Roosevelt who penned 34 books during his life. But many other presidents have taken up the task of writing and publishing their thoughts. Jimmy Carter has written 19 books while Woodrow Wilson published 14, Herbert Hoover 15, Richard Nixon 10, William Howard Taft 9, and Grover Cleveland 7. Whether our presidents have written for posterity or vindication, financial gain or political advantage, they have left us a considerable body of literature:

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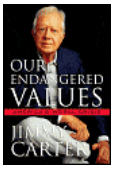

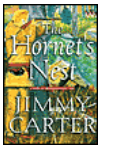

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