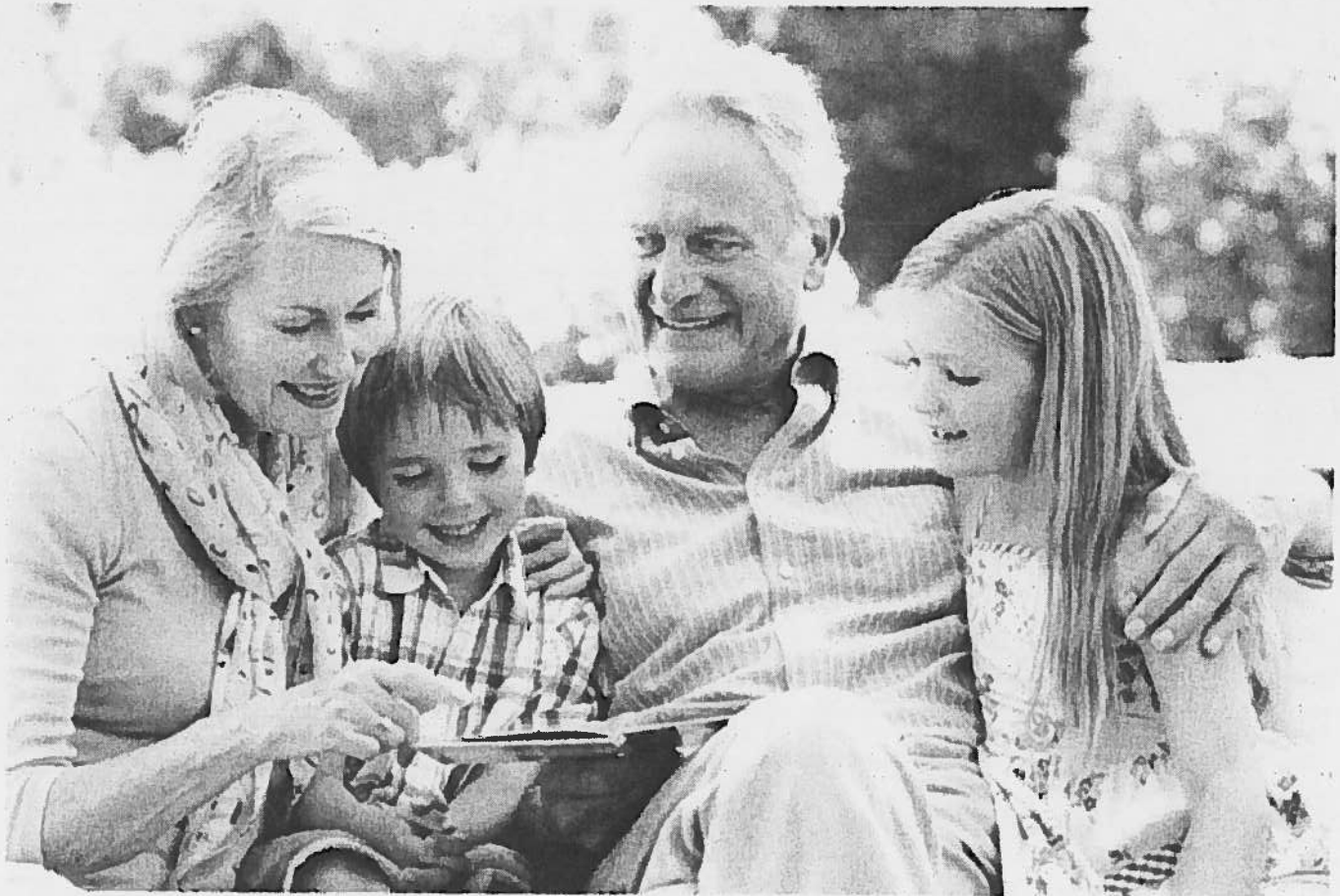


Across Generations: The Grandparent Legacy Project

A biography is a written history of a person's life. More than a chronicle of the events a person has experienced, a biography explores the subject's unique personality. It is the celebration of a person's life.



Grandparent Celebration
May 19, 2016
Northview Crossroads Middle School
1:30 to 2:30

Across Generation Legacy Project
Grandparent Biography: Narrative Nonfiction

Come travel through time, learn from the past, and collect knowledge for a better future.

Please note all dates are subject to change.

Make a personal correspondence: Letter or Email
* (Be sure to include the need for at least one picture)

Using block format, write a friendly letter to your subject. Introduce the project and ask for his/her help. Explain why you choose to write about your subject. Invite him/her to the celebration on May 19, 2016 from 1:30 to 2:30 at Crossroads.

Prepare Interview Questions (round 1)
Interview must be completed by January 11

Use the guide to develop specific questions as well as to guide your interview. Draft a minimum of 50 questions. Ask questions that require thoughtful responses, not just one word answers. Questions should focus on events in his/her life, his/her thoughts, feelings, and opinions about world events. Find out how he/she has changed to become who he/she is today. Discover his/her hopes, dreams, fears, and accomplishments. Look at artifacts to discover more about your subject.

Conduct interview of subject and take notes
*(Be sure to collect and gather ample information)

Arrange for a time to interview your subject. Meet personally with your subject. Look at artifacts to discover more about your subject. Ask about those artifacts. This is one way to uncover stories. You may even need a follow up interview by phone, email, etc. During the interview, record the information. It may be helpful to ask if the interview may be recorded so you can go back and listen. Be sure to ask permission.

Interview another individual who can provide insight
*(Be sure to bring notes of interview to class)

Other people who know your subject are a valuable resource. Find someone who knows your subject well and arrange for an interview.

Read nonfiction texts about historical information and take notes

In order to interview your subject in order to understand the time period in which he or she grew up, you will view clips and read information about different time periods in history. This information should be woven into the actual biography.

Create a double-sided timeline (life layers)

Timelines help people understand history. People use timelines to keep track of things that happen on certain days or certain years. In addition, each event will need a picture or symbol.

Draft biography (need at least seven stories)

Organize your notes into an outline. Use the outline to draft small moment stories to highlight key moments of your subject's life. Use transitions to help your reader navigate your piece.

Research events/footnotes (an ancillary piece of information printed at the bottom of a page.)

Research at least five historical events that influenced/impacted your subject's life. Based on your notes, include at least five summaries to be included in your biography as footnotes.

Create a visual piece for celebration (outside of class as part of homework)

5/17

You are required to create a visual representation of your subject. This will be displayed at the celebration. You may make a tri-fold or use a form of technology. Include photos, artifacts, and other items. Many people scan or copy the artifacts to protect the originals. Be creative. See the visual requirement guidelines.

Celebrate with Family *(During the Gallery Walk, take the Grandparent Survey)

5/19

Have your visual ready! Bring your dish to pass (optional). The celebration starts at 1:30 and ends at 2:30. At the end of the day, be sure to take home your visual and any dishes.

Final Paper Due: Friday 5/13/16

**Grandparent Biography
The Legacy Project
Visual Presentation**

**You may make a tri-fold or use technology to feature your
grandparent's life.**

	Points Earned	Points Possible
Includes title/name of subject		5
Includes pictures and possible other artifacts (family tree, vital records: birth certificate, marriage license, military, diplomas, report cards, ticket stubs, passport, letters, postcards, songs, etc) Need minimum of 5		25
Includes captions with informative text related to each artifact (2-3 sentences per caption)		25
Demonstrates creativity, appeal, and professionalism (error free)		50
Total possible points		105

Name:

Checklist for the Interviews

While conducting your interviews, be sure to do the following:

- Ask all 50 questions and record responses.
- Get a favorite family recipe.
- Complete the family tree.
- Fill out a Life Layer (Double-sided Timeline). Be sure to include at least five historical events to research for footnotes.
- Collect other photos and artifacts to use for the visual display.
- Ask another source about your grandparent (aunt, uncle, cousin, parent, sibling). Try to gather anecdotes about your grandparent.

Life Interview Questions – Childhood

Life Events – Childhood

- What year were you born? On what date? What day of the week was it? Did your parents tell you anything about the day you were born?
- Where were you born?
- Why were you given the first (and middle) name(s) that you have?
- What's your first, most vivid memory?
- What was the apartment or house like that you grew up in? How many bedrooms did it have? Bathrooms? What was your bedroom like?
- Can you describe the neighborhood you grew up in?
- Tell me about your parents. Where were they born? When were they born? What memories do you have of them?
- Who was more strict: your mother or your father? Do you have a vivid memory of something you did that you were disciplined for?
- Did your parents have a good marriage?
- How did your family earn money? How did your family compare to others in the neighborhood – richer, poorer, the same?
- What kinds of things did your family spend money on?
- How many brothers and sisters do you have? When were they born? What memories do you have of each of them from when you were growing up?
- Did you have grandparents? Where were they born? When were they born? What do you remember about them? When did they die?
- Did you have any pets?
- What were you like as a child? What did you like to eat? What did you do for fun? What were your favorite toys or games? Did you ever have a secret place or a favorite hiding spot?
- What did you wear?
- Did you get an allowance? How much? Did you spend it right away, or save it? What did you buy?
- What responsibilities did you have at home when you were young?
- What kind of school did you go to? Were you a good student? What was your favorite subject? Least favorite? Who were your friends? Who was your favorite teacher and why?
- Did you have any heroes or role models when you were a child?
- How did you spend your summer holidays? What were your favorite summer activities?
- Where did your family go on vacations?
- How did your family celebrate holidays (e.g. Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, Easter, Memorial Day)? Did lots of relatives get together? What traditions did you have year after year? What food was served?
- What was the best gift you remember receiving as a child?
- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- What big world events do you remember from the time you were growing up?
- What inventions do you most remember?
- What's different about growing up today from when you were growing up?
- When you were a teenager, what did you do for fun? Did you have a favorite spot to "hang out"? What time did you have to be home at night? Did you ever get into any trouble?
- Were there any phrases that were popular when you were a teenager? What did you like to wear? How did your parents feel about the way you talked and what you wore?
- When did you learn how to drive? Who taught you? What was your first car like?
- What was your graduation from high school like?
- What dreams and goals did you have for your life when you graduated?

Life Interview Questions – Adulthood, Identity

Life Events – Adulthood

- Did you go to university or college? How did you decide what you wanted to study?
- Did you serve in the military? What did you do and what kind of experience was it?
- How did you decide what you wanted to do with your life? How do you feel about that choice?
- What was your first job? What did you like or not like about it?
- What job did you do most of your life? What did you like most about it? Least?
- How did you meet your spouse? What did you like about him/her?
- How and when did you get engaged?
- When did you get married? How old were you? Where did you get married? What was your wedding like?
- What was the first big purchase you made with your spouse?
- What makes your spouse special or unique?
- How many children do you have? When were they born? How did you decide what to name each?
- What's your favorite story about each of your children?
- What is something funny or embarrassing one of your children said at an early age that you'll never forget?
- What's the most memorable family vacation you took?
- What do you remember about holiday celebrations? Is there one holiday memory that stands out for you?
- How did you feel about raising your children? What was the best part? The hardest part?
- What makes you proud of your children?
- How is my father/mother like me? Unlike me?
- What do you remember about me when I was born? What about when I was younger than I am now?
- What the best thing about being a parent? A grandparent?

Identity

- Do you know the meaning of your family name? Are there stories about the origins of your family name?
- Have you ever had any nicknames as a child or as an adult? Where did they come from?
- How are you like your mother? Unlike her? How are you like your father? Unlike him?
- What was most important to your parents?
- Do you feel you're like any of your grandparents? In what ways?
- How are your children like you? Unlike you?
- What do you think are your three best qualities? Your three worst?
- Which do you think you have the most of: talent, intelligence, education, or persistence? How has it helped you in your life?
- Do you have any special sayings or expressions?
- What's your favorite book and why? What's your favorite movie and why?
- Who are three people in history you admire most and why?
- What have been the three biggest news events during your lifetime and why?
- If you could travel into the future, would you rather see something that specifically relates to you, or something that relates to the future of the country in general? Why?
- If you could have three wishes, what would they be?
- If you won \$1 million tomorrow, what would you do with the money?
- What's the highest honor or award you've ever received?
- What's the most memorable phone call you've ever received?
- What's the best compliment you ever received?
- What kinds of things bring you the most pleasure now? When you were a younger adult? A child?
- What things frighten you now? What frightened you when you were a younger adult? A child?
- What's the one thing you've always wanted but still don't have?
- Do you feel differently about yourself now from how you felt when you were younger? How?
- What do you think has stayed the same about you throughout life? What do you think has changed?

Life Interview Questions – The Present, Aging, Life Lessons and Legacies

The Present

- Do you have any hobbies or special interests? Do you enjoy any particular sports?
- What's your typical day like now? How is it different from your daily routines in the past?
- Is the present better or worse than when you were younger?
- What do you do for fun?
- Who do you trust and depend on?
- What things are most important to you now? Why?
- How have your dreams and goals changed through your life?
- What do you see? (Hold a mirror up to the person)

Aging

- What do you remember about your 20s? 30s? 40s? 50s? 60s? What events stand out in your mind? How was each age different from the one before it?
- There are some ages we don't look forward to. What birthday were you least enthusiastic about? Why?
- If you could go back to any age, which age would it be and why?
- How do you feel now about growing old? What's the hardest thing about growing older? The best thing?
- What were your parents like when they got older?
- Did you have any expectations at points in your life about what growing older would be like for you?
- How should a person prepare for old age? Is there anything you wish you'd done differently?
- Do you think about the future and make plans? What are your concerns for the future?
- If you live another 20-30 years, what will you do? Do you want to live another 20-30 years?
- What do you look forward to now?

Life Lessons and Legacies

- What's your most cherished family tradition? Why is it important?
- What have you liked best about your life so far? What's your happiest or proudest moment?
- What do you feel have been the important successes in your life? The frustrations?
- What's the most difficult thing that ever happened to you? How did you deal with it?
- What do you think the turning points have been in your life? What were you like then?
- Are there times of your life that you remember more vividly than others? Why?
- What have been the most influential experiences in your life?
- Describe a person or situation from your childhood that had a profound effect on the way you look at life.
- If you were writing the story of your life, how would you divide it into chapters?
- What, if anything, would you have done differently in your life?
- What do you know now that you wish you'd known when you were young?
- What have you thrown away in your life that you wish you hadn't? What have you held on to that's important and why is it important? What "junk" have you held on to and why?
- Over time, how have you changed the way you look at life/people?
- What advice did your grandparents or parents give you that you remember best?
- Do you have a philosophy of life? What's your best piece of advice for living? If a young person came to you asking what's the most important thing for living a good life, what would you say?
- How do you define a "good life" or a "successful life"?
- Do you think a person needs to first overcome serious setbacks or challenges to be truly successful?
- In what way is it important to know your limitations in your life or career?
- If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why?
- What do you see as your place or purpose in life? How did you come to that conclusion?
- What would you like your children and grandchildren to remember about you?
- If you could write a message to each of your children and grandchildren and put it in a time capsule for them to read 20 years from now, what would you write to each?

Interview Responses

Early Years

School Life

Teenage Years

Young Adult Years (College, Earning a Living, etc)

Marriage and Family

Experiences (Travel, successes/failures, monumental events)

The Present and Life's Reflections (personality, interests, hobbies, moments of pride, hopes/dreams)

Impact of Events/Times Throughout Life

Miscellaneous

Favorite Family Recipe

From whom? _____

When is this made? _____

Recipe Name:

Ingredients:

Instructions:

Life Layers

The lines on the Life Layers sheet represent a person's life, with the different decades marked off. The arrows indicate the flow of a person's life through the layers. The sheet helps a person map the changes that have taken place over their lifetime and see how the layers of their life experiences have brought them to where they are today.

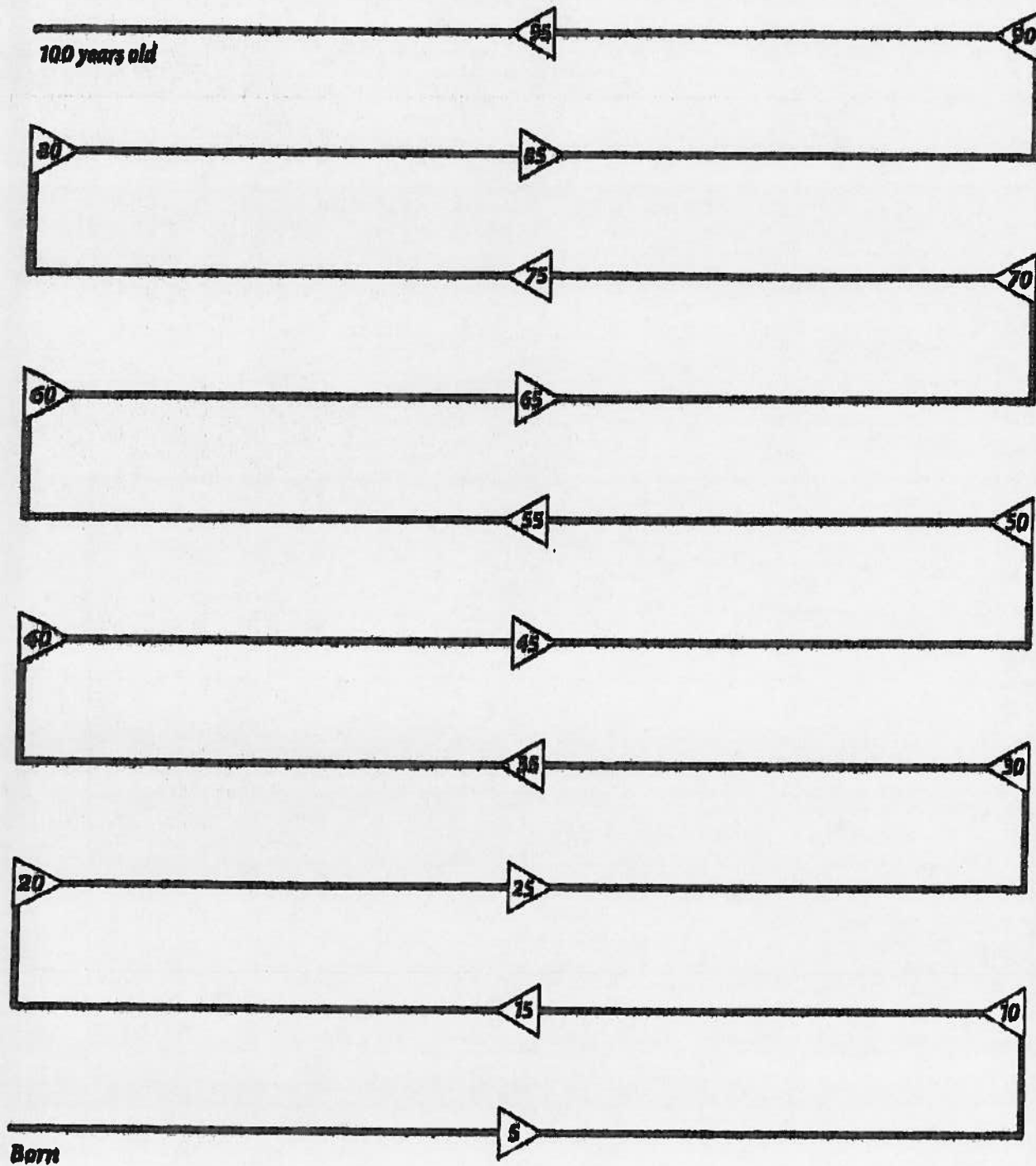
Directions:

In general, you can use words, symbols, and drawings to sketch your subject's journey through the life layers. Be as creative as you like.

Here are the basic steps:

- Write in your subject's name and birth date.
- **Above the lines**, write in the names of your subject's children and grandchildren at the time in his/her life when they were born. You can also include other family members like siblings. If you wish, you can note the dates.
- **Still working above the lines**, in another color of pen, note other significant life events, milestones, and transitions (e.g. when your subject went to college, graduated college, got married, got first job, retired, etc.).
- **Below the lines**, in yet another color of pen, identify historical events that made an impact on your subject's life.
- Now, look at the time left on the map of your subject's life. What else would he/she like to do? What dreams and goals does he/she have? Write in the ideas in another color of pen.

Life Layers



Name

Birth Date

Present Date

optional

MY FAMILY TREE

MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS

MY GRANDPARENTS ---

MY PARENTS _____

FATHER'S MOTHER'S FATHER

name _____

birth date _____

MOTHER'S FATHER'S MOTHER

name _____

birth date _____

FATHER'S MOTHER'S MOTHER

name _____

birth date _____

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FATHER'S FATHER

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birth date _____

MOTHER

name _____

birth date _____

FATHER

name _____

birth date _____

ME

name _____

birth date _____