

Family History Writing Project

TED 404-BCLAD

Due: March 19, 2007

Students will create a 16-page family history book that will include a minimum of six revised family stories written in different genres. Drawings may accompany the stories. The entries may be written in English or Spanish. May submit a photograph for the cover.

Rehearsing your ideas:

- Write for 10 minutes everyday in your writer's notebook. After writing for a couple of weeks, reread entries. The initial writings may serve as seeds for possible stories.
- Create a web of memories. Share the web with others. Through sharing and listening, other memories may surface.
- Make a list of people to whom you could write to or have wanted to write a letter to but haven't made the time. It could also be someone who you wanted to say something to but is no longer living. Write that letter from your heart.
- Walk through your home room by room and relive special moments. Make a list of those memories.
- Recreate the floor plan of the house you grew up in. Mentally walk through each room. Make a list of the people you remember. Make another list of your memories associated with that house.
- Read like a writer. While reading, make a list of words and phrases that stand out. Notice how writers begin their stories.

Suggestions for genres:

- 1) an autobiographical narrative
- 2) a biographical narrative of a family member
- 3) a narrative piece told from an historical point of view. Include facts about that time period as the narrative unfolds.
- 4) a letter to a special someone
- 5) a recipe - Include the directions on how to make this food and the reason why it is special.
- 6) a personal narrative that talks about the significance of a song or a family saying.
- 7) a description of a home remedy and the memory it elicits
- 8) interview a grandparent. Compare and contrast one aspect of his/her life to your own (e.g. toys, schooling, growing up, work, entertainment...)
- 9) a description of a cultural tradition
- 10) an opinion
- 11) a lesson learned (problem/solution)
- 12) a family legend/oral story

What to include (all pages need to be portrait style):

- title page
- dedication page
- table of contents with page numbers
- family tree (optional)
- title for each story

NOTE: Beginning February 5th bring a writing piece to be shared & revised each week.