

Grandparent/ Grandfriend Interview

November 15, 2011

Dear parents and guardians,

Our next Social Studies/ Language Arts project is The Grandparent/Grandfriend Interview. It continues the Family Pedigree Assignment began earlier this year. This writing project begins with an interview of a grandparent or grandfriend. A valuable resource for this project in the Legacy Project website. As the legacy project states, completing this project allows “an opportunity to build closer connections between young and old as they get to know each other in new, often unexpected ways.” This project is being distributed now so that each student may have adequate time to complete his/her interview before the rough draft is due. Interview questions are available on the web at:

<http://www.legacyproject.org/guides/lifeintquestions.html> (Questions can be downloaded in PDF format.)

These questions can also be downloaded from the Nature Academy Action List soon! The legacy site also offers excellent interview tips: <http://www.legacyproject.org/guides/lifeinttips.html>

Please realize the only requirement at this time is the interview. Students need only take notes on information they receive from their interview.* Students have roughly four weeks to complete the interview. Interview notes will be checked on December 6. Parent-edited rough drafts will be due Wednesday, December 14. Final drafts, complete with photos and memorabilia, will be due on December 21 for extra credit and January 10 for full credit.

A related opportunity for students is participation in the “Listen to a Life” Essay Contest. More information on this contest is available at: <http://www.legacyproject.org/contests/lta.html> There are several prizes, including a grand prize computer! Students who wish to submit a final-draft quality essay for the contest (be sure to give to Ms. Stockton to edit over the winter break) must submit the final draft and all accompanying forms no later than March 1, 2010.

Thanks for your help and support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Melissa Stockton

Suggestions for Interview Completion:

1. Person to person interview
2. Telephone interview with the elder/grandparent.
3. E-mail interview
4. Audiotape and/or videotape the interview.
5. Send a letter with questions and answer space.
6. I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU AVOID YES/NO ANSWERS. You will be writing an in-depth interview on this elder. Yes/No answers will not suffice. Please encourage your interviewee to explain his/her answers – anecdotal stories are great. See attached question format or check the web at:

*Eventually students will be including photos and memorabilia from their interviewee. You may want to solicit photos and such at the time of the interview.