

# Milestone Memoir

Marry one picture (worth 1,000 words) with one personal essay to create a meaningful narrative for future generations.

**How does this method different from traditional scrapbooking?** By placing more emphasis on the written word, and less attention on decorative elements.

*Milestone Memoir* comes along-side your other photo preservation methods. It is a hybrid of scrapbooking and storytelling – YOUR story that needs to be shared with others.

*Milestone Memoir* reviews life's significant events in order to share your values and wisdom with those you care about most. It is a way to **leave a lasting legacy**.

*Milestone Memoir* is a thoughtful process that shouldn't be rushed. Its message benefits from reflective time in-between scrapbooking sessions.

## A Step-by-Step Overview:

Step 1: Brainstorm a Theme	Possible themes include: autobiography – holidays/traditions – personal faith journey – specific event or travel – heritage (ancestry)
Step 2: Brainstorm "Chapters"	Each page is a different story (chapter). Let the stories dictate the content before you consider the pictures.
Step 3: Review Photos	Once you have a list of stories (25-30 is a good start), look through photos to find those that might coordinate with each chapter. Invariably you will discover other stories to include.
Step 4: ONE Photo a chapter	From all possible photos... select ONE per story. Remember, words are the emphasis here; they will enrich the picture.
Step 5: Select Color Scheme	To simplify the process .... Select a color scheme to use throughout the album. Ideally, 2-3 colors using 6-8 different papers/cardstock.
Step 6: Decide on Layouts	Simple layouts are best: strip borders or triangles in the corners work best - just a touch of color to make it visually appealing without distracting from the focus: the photo and the story.
Step 7: Draft the Essay	Simply write the story in your own words – focus on the message you want to communicate rather than spelling and grammar ( <i>that comes later</i> )
Step 8: Craft the Page	Alternate drafting essays (left brain) with crafting page layouts (right brain). Be sure to leave space for the completed essay....
Step 9: Revise the Essay	Let the written draft sit at least 24 hours. Re-read and make any necessary modifications (I have several handouts on writing, if you desire some assistance)
Step 10: Complete Layout	While you may type your stories, PLEASE be sure to include handwritten ones as well (that is also a part of your legacy) Mat the essay and add to the layout.

*I hope you will consider making the investment of your time for this project.  
I know your family will appreciate it.*