

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:

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| 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.*