

The Story of My Childhood

Original task developed by Lynn Thompson, Center for Applied Linguistics

Name of task	Childhood Scrapbook
Performance objective being assessed	I can describe and reflect on my childhood and family in writing. I can talk about my family and key events in my childhood. I can reflect on how my childhood would have been if I had lived in Russia.
Communicative mode(s) assessed	Presentational Writing and Speaking
Language	Russian
Proficiency level being assessed	Intermediate/Advanced
What grade/age levels is the task written for?	Middle School/High School
Formative or summative?	Summative

Context

The students are heritage Russian learners who have also studied Russian for several years in their middle school/high school. They have been participating in an intensive Russian summer program that focuses on family life in Russia and the US. As a culminating activity, students are preparing scrapbooks about their own childhood which they will share with their classmates as a formal presentation to the class.

Materials and Input

Over the course of the program, students have learned about family life in Russia and have engaged in reflective activities and discussions about their own family and childhood in the United States. A week prior to assigning this final activity, the teacher brings in a scrapbook of her own childhood and shares it with her students. She tells them that they will be developing a scrapbook of their own the following week and asks them to bring in at least 4 pictures from different stages of their childhood, and pictures of family members and key events in their childhood.

Other materials provided by teacher:

- Empty scrapbook for each student
- Glue and other decorative materials
- Word wall (already present in classroom or can be made as a vocabulary list)
- Dictionaries

Instructions to students

Last week you learned about my childhood in Moscow when I shared a scrapbook of important events in my life when I was young. This week, it is your turn to create your own scrapbook using the pictures you have collected. You will work on your scrapbooks during our creative writing time this week and then share them with your classmates during creative writing class next week. Each of you will receive an empty scrapbook that you will fill with your pictures and writing. Once you have completed your scrapbook, you will present it to the class and tell your story.

Your scrapbook should include the following:

1. A baby picture and at least one picture of family members.
2. A description of what you and your family were like when you were small.
3. At least 3 pictures of key events in your childhood.
4. A description of each event and why it was important.
5. On the last page explain how your childhood would have been if you had grown up in Russia. Explain how it would have been the same and/or different.

Important note: Please do not paste anything in your scrapbook until you have completed all of your writing! This will ensure that you have enough space for everything!

You may use the word wall and dictionaries as well as any of the other resource materials in our classroom. I will check in with each of you periodically during creative writing class.

I am looking forward to seeing your presentations of your scrapbooks!

Standards and Expected Response

Successful student scrapbooks need to include all elements listed in student instructions. Written descriptions should range from strings of 2-3 sentences to full paragraphs containing 5-8 sentences. Writing and speaking should reflect awareness of present and past tenses, conditional mood, and use of appropriate case endings. Spoken presentations should last between 5-7 minutes and cover all of the topics presented in the scrapbook. Student scrapbooks will be rated using a rubric based on the ACTFL/NCCSFL Can-Dos and lesson specific Can-Dos.