

Name: _____

Down Through Generations

The purpose of this worksheet is to help you recall personal and family history. How did the generations before you shape your story? How will your story shape future generations? If you aren't interested in, don't feel comfortable with, or can't think of an answer to a question, just skip the question and go on to the next one.

Tell about a person from your past who made an impression on you. Was this someone you know well or someone with whom you had a brief encounter? Describe the person, the interaction, and what you thought or felt?

Describe a family meal (either weekday, Saturday or Sunday) when you were younger. Where? When? How often did you have this type of meal? Who was there? What did you eat? Did you have favorite foods or foods you really disliked? Was there enough to eat? What did you drink? Do you remember the plates, cups, glasses, or tableware? Were there "table rules"?

Ask the same question above to your mom or dad about family meals when they were young.

What is your favorite or least favorite holiday?

(circle one: least favorite or favorite) holiday: _____

What are some traditions that are practiced in your family on this day? Which of these do you hope to continue and which of these do you hope will fade away?

Who do you resemble in your family? What physical traits do you share with your parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles? Do people say you have personality characteristics like someone else in your family? Who? What characteristics? Do you like this comparison?

Did you ever get in trouble when you were little? Were you punished? By whom? For what? Did you deserve the punishment?

Did your parents or grandparents ever tell you a story about getting in trouble? Punished? By whom? For what? Was the punishment deserved?

How long has your family lived in the United States? Why did your family originally come to this country? What did they encounter once they arrived?

When and how did your family come to the Chicago area?

Make the longest list you can of work your...
parents have done:

grandparents have done:

Can you remember anything (even non-work related) about your great-grandparents?

Is there a common type of work that has been passed down through generations in your family? Do you plan to study or work any of the same jobs? Explain.

Did your parents or grandparents ever tell you a story about really wanting money and not having any? What did he/she do?

Do you know any family stories about how your parents met each other? Do you know how your grandparents met each other?

Additional thoughts, ideas and memories: