

Literacy Volunteers of East Bay

An Affiliate of ProLiteracy America



-Fighting for literacy one person at a time-

May 11, 2009

Tutors,

2008-2009
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As many of you know, every year we create a booklet of student and tutor writings to be presented at the annual meeting. Our theme this year will be **Remembering Our Past**, so that we might explore the rich heritage of the diversity of the many individuals represented by Literacy Volunteers of East Bay. Students and tutors are being asked to retell a family story from their past or their family's past. We want to compile stories that cover several generations and represent the places from which we have come.

To expedite the collection process, and to also provide a writing sample for each student's file, we will be asking students for a writing sample during their year-end assessments and will use the booklet's theme as the writing prompt for the writing sample. Please let your student know that **this is a portfolio sample not a test**. You are encouraged to let your student know about this writing exercise and brainstorm ideas before they come in for their assessment. If students want to come to their appointment with a finished piece, that is perfectly wonderful. Since we are also encouraging you, our tutors, to submit a piece for the booklet, you might want to consider sharing your writing with your student to give them an idea of how to approach this topic. You can compare your memories, using this assignment as one of your meetings. An old photograph might be a good discussion starter. Here are some questions you and your student can discuss/think about before writing:

- ~ **Do you think about the lives of your parents or grandparents? How would you describe their lives?**
- ~ **What do you remember about your own life when you were growing up?**

Possible Sentence Starters:

1. When I was growing up, nothing was more important than...
2. I always wanted to be like my...
3. One person in my family who made a difference was/is...
4. I remember one story that my family always retold. It was...
5. Life used to be so different.
6. What I loved best about growing up was...
7. I've always been told I was just like my...
8. My grandmother/grandfather used to always say...
9. Those were hard times.
10. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for...

Story titles could be something like: "Back Home in Carp Verde," "My Family Background," "Being Polish," "Back in Those Days," "When We Were Young," "My Grandmother," "Hard Times."

The goal is to capture some oral history from the lives of the individuals in our agency.

All submissions must be in by May 22 in order to get them prepared for the printer and the books back in time for the meeting. Imagine the excitement of your student to see his/or her writing in print, and to have their joy doubled to be able to point out the story of their teacher a few pages later.

I look forward to reading them all.

Jolene

