**Oral Communication Interview Project – *Changes in* *Middle School***

**Goals:**

* Practice investigating, gathering, and summarizing primary research
* Think critically about our world, lifestyle and how things change throughout modern history
* Practice making connections and comparing information
* Practice summarizing key ideas
* Practice oral communication skills in small and large group settings

**Assignment Steps:**

* **Step 1:** brainstorm 3 people over the age of 35 that you would be able to interview about their middle school experience. Select 1 to interview.
* **Step 2:** brainstorm some questions that you could ask them to better understand what their middle school experience was like. Consider finding out what their classes were like, which toys, activities or clothes were cool, how they spent their free time, how they communicated with friends, what was important to them and other things to help you understand what it was like to be a 12–14-year-old at that time.
* **Step 3:** select 12-15 questions to ask. Then, interview your person! Write or record their answers to your questions.
* **Step 4:** write a reaction to what you discovered. What was most surprising? What was most interesting? What seems the most different from your experiences today? What seems similar?
* **Step 5**: find pictures that connect with things your person talked about. Make a PowerPoint with these. Avoid using text in your slides.
* **Step 6**: present your interview and your reaction to your classmates. Discuss the questions you asked and the answers you got. Explain what pictures you chose and why you selected them. Help us understand what school was like in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

**Presentation Outline**

Here are the success criteria for the presentation:

* Roughly 2 – 4 minutes in length
* A visual supports the presentation (PowerPoint and/or artifacts and objects).
* Presentation starts with a brief introduction/explanation of who was interviewed.
* The year(s) the person attended middle school is identified.
* Next, discusses key information about:
  + What school and classes were like
  + Things that were cool during these years
  + How kids’ “free time” was spent
* Discusses their reaction to the information from the interview (including similarities and differences).
* Concludes the presentation with personal thoughts about school in the years \_\_\_\_.

**Brainstorm Sheet**

**Who could I interview?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |  |  |
| **Relationship** |  |  |  |
| **Age** |  |  |  |
| **How could I communicate with them?** |  |  |  |

**What am I wondering?**

Use the chart to help organize the types of questions you might ask your person.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Basic Questions** | **Questions related to SCHOOL** | **Questions related to all things COOL** | **Questions related to HOBBIES/FREE TIME** |
|  |  |  |  |