

Partnership Assignment

A Learning Partnership

What is it?

- An assignment
Project
Reflection
- An opportunity
- A gift, given and received



Who is it?

- Individuals
- Residents at The Willows



Does not represent the full range of persons living as older adults in our community.

How is it?

- Weekly meetings; time varies

Minimum of 8 meetings (14 -16 hours), Jan 12- March 11th

Opening activity is January 13th on campus

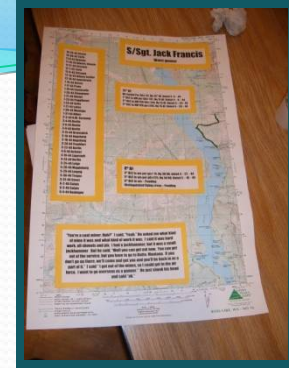
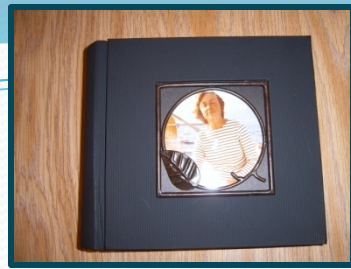
Final reception is March 10th during class time, The Willows

- Structured, yet flexible agendas
- Document on planning/time sheets
- Interviewing, discussing, sharing
- Activity?
- Partnership Project



Why is it?

- An opportunity to explore the relationship between class material (leisure and work) and the life experience of one older adult.
- A chance to exchange your thoughts and ideas about the aging process with an older adult.
- Practice the process of “interviewing” (intentionally getting to know someone).
- Gain practice in assessing and documenting the significant events, gifts and relationships of someone’s life.

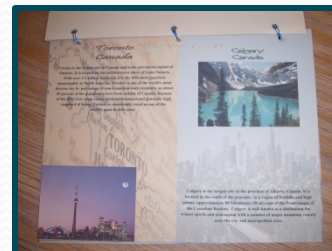
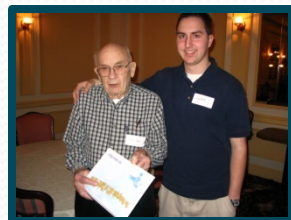
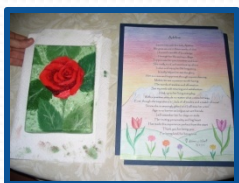


What will the Life History Look Like?

- They will, and should, vary. Possible formats:
 - A chronological timeline
 - A pictorial history with captions
 - A letter
 - A booklet to family members
 - A scrapbook
 - Other? (Ex: Journalist, Map history, Music)



A FEW WEEKS INTO THE QUARTER I WILL ASK TO MEET WITH YOU TO TALK ABOUT YOUR PARTNERSHIP AND TO SUPPORT YOU IN SHAPING YOUR PROJECT



How will the beginning work?

- Opening Gathering
 - Find your identified partner
 - Offer coffee, etc.
 - Participate in discussion and activities
 - Make sure that they have your contact information
 - Schedule first individual session (regular time); ask if they would like a reminder; Allow 1-2 hours; choose a location that best works for your partner
- First meeting:
 - Re-explain the project (using the term 'leisure')
 - Have a plan ready but remain flexible
 - Make sure that they know how to reach you
 - Schedule your next visit
 - Clarify any preparations for next visit
 - Write weekly report, make copy for yourself
 - Other documentation as needed

What will happen at the weekly meetings?

- Discussion
- Worksheets
- Share stories
- Share photos
- Read, discuss articles
- Share skills

*If you plan to do anything off site or meet in the community for an activity other than coffee please clear it with me or the facility staff first. To transport your partner, there is university paperwork that needs to be completed beforehand.

Planning the first meeting

- Discuss possible approaches for this assignment.
- Discuss what you bring to this assignment that might shape your interactions. (personality qualities, life experiences, attitudes/beliefs, etc.)
- Establish reasonable and appropriate goals for the first meeting.
- Draft a possible plan for the first meeting.

A Sample Plan

- Introduce yourselves to each other (including favorite activity, book, memory, vacation?)
- Explain the project and/or ask if they have any questions
- Tell them what you are looking forward to about the experience
- Ask questions about a 'safe' subject: relationship to Bellingham, other places they have lived, favorite place they have lived and why, where they have family,
- Tell them that we are talking about attitudes towards older adults this week: Do you feel that people have preconceived ideas about older adults? What are they? Do you feel that people interact differently with people based on their age? How did you think about older age as you were growing up? Have people treated you differently because of your age? How do you feel about that?

Contact Information

- The Willows: Jessica or Chris 671-1077
Introduce yourselves to them at some point!
- Me: 360-961-8131 (cell) 260-650-7559 (office)