

Once Upon a Time
Debby Schuh album track

Every great story begins with those words and so does the story you have to tell! The possibilities are endless...you might want to tell your story...what and who has made you who you are today; you might want to tell your mom's or grandmother's story or the story of becoming a mother; you might want to tell the story of a treasured friendship. This album can be made with a particular story in mind, adding photos as you go, or you can create the album and add pictures and journaling later when you are ready. Either approach will work in this class.

If you want to bring pictures to class, here are the steps to follow to be ready:

1. The most important step in preparation for this class is to decide what story you want to tell.
2. Decide what aspects of the story you are going to document. In an album of this size, you won't be able to tell an entire, detailed life story. You can jot down highlights to include and then find photos to document those highlights. You can do a timeline or focus on relationships or roles. Or you could start with the pictures you have and find what story they tell. There may be things in the story that you don't have pictures for. Be sure to write that information down so you include a place for it in your album.
3. Gather your pictures. If you are using one-of-a-kind vintage pictures, you might want to have copies made to use in class. It is better to have more pictures than you think you will use in both horizontal and vertical orientations. BUT you don't need to bring 500 pictures! There will be many places to put pictures on layouts, in pockets, and on fold outs, but you need to decide which photos best tell the story and include those. I like to use photos in a variety of sizes. The album is 8x8", so you could print a photo in that size or in 8x10" and crop it to 8x8" to adhere as full page in the album. I would also have some printed in a small size so I could include several on a page.

This album isn't going to be the type where one size picture is going to have to go in one particular spot. It will be flexible for the different pictures you have.

4. Gather memorabilia that might help tell the story. Letters, labels, postcards, maps...anything that adds to the fullness of the story is a treasure to include. Be sure to make a good quality copy of the item if you want to preserve the original.
4. Make a list of the order in which you want to tell the story and group your photos in that order. As we start working in class, you can use that as

a guide to personalize your album. You could divide the pictures and memorabilia by section and put them in a baggie. The more organized you are before class, the more you'll be able to get done in class.

You can see the collection of products we'll be using from October

Afternoon on their website at

http://www.octoberafternoon.com/line_CH.php.

Class supplies:

12" paper trimmer

Scissors: both straight that will cut paper and fabric, and decorative edge (I use scallop scissors a lot)

Adhesive: lots of dry tape runner and liquid to glue embellishments and fabric

Ruler

Pencil

Scoring tool: bone folder or stylus

Crop A Dile

Stapler: standard size

Needle for embroidery floss

2 or 3 Paint brushes: 1" foam brush or cheap paint brush

Black dye ink stamp pad

Acrylic block for clear stamps

Journaling pen black

Sand paper or sanding block

Cutting mat

Craft knife with a sharp blade

Favorite border punch (I like the Fiskars threading water and apron strings punches)

Circle punch: anything from 1" to 1 1/2" will work

Pop dots or foam squares

Favorite ink for distressing, if desired

Favorite stamps (for journaling or adding to the album to personalize it)

I like to bring a baggie with some of my favorite embellishments to add to my projects to personalize them. It may be some favorite lace or trim or a vintage pin or ephemera or buttons.