Immigrant Diary Project

Your task will be to interview an immigrant and create a diary from his/her point of view. To start, you need to choose an adult immigrant. This could be someone in your family, a family friend, or a neighbour. You will be provided with a list of questions that you can ask your immigrant. You must choose a minimum of 20 questions. This does not mean that you will use the answers from all 20 questions, but the more questions you ask, the easier it will be to write the diary entries. You will be required to have a minimum of 10 diary entries that are at least a minimum of half a page each. Your diary must include 5 photographs or pictures related to what you are talking about in your diary. You need to include an attractive cover for your diary. If you include more than the required minimums, you will be exceeding expectations.

Timeline for Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parts</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview of Immigrant</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 9th, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diary Entries (Rough Copies)</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 23rd, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Product</td>
<td>Monday, October 29th, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**If you have trouble finding an immigrant to interview, please come speak with me by Thursday, October 4th, 2012**

You will be given some in-class time to do your diary entries and pictures, however, you will be required to conduct the interview on your own time.
Immigration Project Interview Questions

The following list of questions will help you get started on your project. They are listed in no particular order. You need to design your own list of questions and put them in an order that makes sense to you. Using these as a guideline, I recommend that you choose those that will best help you understand your interviewee’s immigration journey. Type your list and print 2 copies, one for you and one for you interviewee. It is not necessary that you ask all of these questions. The best interview will be one where conversation back and forth feels natural. For example, a specific answer may encourage you to ask “follow-up” questions. Those answers may lead to others. Try to think of the interview as a comfortable conversation. Relax and have fun!

1. What is your full name?
2. Is your name different in your native language? Pronunciation/spelling?
3. Where did you live before you immigrated to Canada?
4. What specific circumstances caused you to immigrate?
5. Was it a personal decision or one that someone else made for you?
6. How old were you?
7. What had you heard about Canada before you came? What stereotypes/expectations did you have?
8. Had you seen pictures or photos of Canada? What did you think of them?
9. What had people told you about Canada?
10. Were your initial expectations accurate? Can you give me an example?
11. Where specifically in your former country did you live?
12. What was your life like there?
13. What was going on there at the time?
14. Can you tell me about the government in your native country before you left?
15. What year/date did you arrive in Canada?
16. Did you immigrate alone, or with friends/other family members?
17. Can you share a memorable experience with me about what it was like, how you were feeling when you first arrived?
18. Was it hard to leave or was it exciting?
19. Did you experience any “culture shock”? Was it hard to adapt? If so, what was challenging? Can you think of a story or experience that will give me an idea?
20. Did you miss family members/friends? Are you in touch with them? How?
21. What possessions did you take with you? What important things, if any, did you leave behind?
22. How did you arrive? Method of transportation?
23. Are you a Canadian citizen now? If so, when did you become an official citizen?
24. What did you have to do in order to become an official citizen?
25. Did you consider living anywhere else?
26. Did you know anyone here when you arrived?
27. Did you feel welcome?
28. How did people treat you? Do you find people treat you differently now if you have been here for a while?
29. Who/What helped you get settled, find a place to live, etc.?
30. Tell me about any language barriers that you experienced/or currently experience?
31. Did you know any English before you arrived?
32. Was it difficult to communicate when you first arrived?
33. What were your first 24 hours/days like?
34. Can you tell me how your life has changed since you came to this country?
35. What sacrifices, if any, have you made to live in Canada?
36. Are their specific things/people that you miss? Who/What? Why?
37. What is the best thing about your immigrant experience?
38. What has been most challenging or difficult about your experience?
39. What kind of job did you have in your home country?
40. What job(s) did/do you have in Canada?
41. How did you go about finding a job?
42. Did you bring any specific skills with you that you were able to use here?
43. If you had not immigrated, what do you think your life would be like today? Can you give me an example of how it might be different?
44. If you have children, were they born in this country? Do they speak your native language?
45. Do they know about your immigrant experience/native culture?
46. How might your children’s live differ if you had not emigrated?
47. How has Canada changed since you arrived?
48. Can you tell me a story or give me an example of how your country has changed since you’ve been here?
49. Has your lifestyle changed since you left? Since you’ve been here?
50. Are there specific cultural traditions that you’ve brought with you?
51. Can you tell me about one of them or why/how you celebrate it? Why is it important to you?
52. Did you attend school here?
53. Did classmates/teachers treat you differently?
54. Do you feel that our culture appreciates immigrants?
55. What do you think about the future of immigration in our country?
56. Would it be possible to contact you if I have any additional follow-up questions?
Tips for Conducting a Good Interview

• Make sure the location you choose to conduct your interview is quiet and comfortable

• Make sure you tell your interviewee that you will be taking notes on what they are saying. (Remember, the more detailed your notes, the easier your diary entries will be.)

• Give a list of questions to your interviewee so that they know what to expect. This is a good opportunity to explain the purpose of your project

• Be encouraging to your interviewee
  o Look at your interviewee and smile when they are talking
  o Be familiar with your questions so that you can pay attention to your interviewee and not the paper in your hand

• Really listen to what your interviewee is saying
  o Make sure your interviewee has answered your question and that you have received the information you are looking for. If not, ask the interviewee to elaborate
  o Pay attention for something that you find interesting so that you can ask a follow-up question. (Write it down if you need to so that you don’t forget to ask it!)
  o Don’t be afraid to ask questions that you might not have written down. What your interviewee says might lead you somewhere unexpected

• Wait for at least 3-5 seconds after you think your interviewee is done speaking to ask your next question. They might have more to say

• Thank your interviewee for their time. Be sure to ask permission to contact them again if you need to clarify or get any additional information

• Be gracious and appreciative

Have Fun!
**Rubric**

**Interview Questions:**
You have asked your interviewee a minimum of 20 questions. You have written down responses in as much detail as possible.  

**Diary Entries:**
You have completed a minimum of 10 diary entries. They are written in first person and take on a real-life characteristic of the perspective of the immigrant. The diary entries provide an accurate view of the immigrant’s experiences and are thoughtful. You have used proper punctuation and spelling.

**Pictures/Photographs:**
You have included a minimum of 5 pictures or photographs. Pictures are neatly drawn and coloured. Photos are neatly mounted. Pictures/photos are relevant to the diary and I have included captions.

**Diary:**
Your diary has an attractive cover and is neatly bound or put together.

**Total Mark:**

**Comments:**