

## Family Photo Project English Lesson Plan

**Learning Target:** I can write a short narrative about family experiences

**Standard:** C.9-10.3

### **Description/ Pre-Lesson Script:**

Many of us had the chance to know our loved ones closely growing up, and we know about certain routines, rituals, or quirky household behaviors that were unique to the family. Using a family photo as inspiration, share a brief story about these unique happenings.

The photo you choose doesn't have to be your own, and if you can't think of something suitable to write about from your own family, you may write a fictional narrative, as long as you label it as fictional in the title.

### **Instructions:**

Look at the picture for inspiration, but if you have a clear idea that you want to get started writing about, skip ahead to the requirements you can glance over, and start writing. You can go back and improve things and add in the requirements later.

If you don't have a clear idea yet, use these pre-writing prompts below.

### **Pre-Writing Prompts:**

Idea 1: Look at the picture. How old were the people in the picture when it was taken? How was everybody feeling? What might have just happened, or what might be about to take place?

Idea 2: What was something fun or funny that happened a lot around the house when you were that age? Was it something the adults liked or disliked? Who or what started it, how did it go from there, and what brought it to a stop? Is there another person or character not pictured who belongs in this group (or just needs to be mentioned)?

Idea 3: Where was a place this group has gone together repeatedly, like to visit someone, to take a vacation, sports practices, church, etc? Where was your favorite place in the house, and did this have to do with anyone else? How would you describe what it was like to come over to your house when you were that age? What would people see, hear, smell, and do?

Idea 4: Who was the neat and tidy person around the house growing up? Who could usually be found singing at the kitchen sink? Who took forever to get ready? Write about how the different personalities interacted around the house, and what you've learned about people in general from those observations.

## **Requirements:**

-Effectively introduce characters and people. Example: "Then Ted walked in. He was the next door neighbor who came over all the time."

-Help the reader understand sequences of events clearly with writing techniques such as paragraph breaks, correct verb tenses, and sequencing words like "first," "next," "after," "then," "finally," etc.

Example: "First, the giggle started with my sister, Amy. Then, it spread to dad. Finally, all of us were struggling to breathe from laughing so hard!"

-Include a punch line, take home message, breakdown, final reflection, or some other way to give the narrative a meaning and share that with the reader. Example: "I guess you could say we had a good road trip, but not without some arm punching and whining along the way! The trip brought us closer because of the circumstances we had to get through together, and is one of my favorite memories of my family. We still bring it up every once in a while, and relive it together."

**Grading and Revision:** Teachers can use the above requirements to give feedback to students. The lesson can be followed with more writing practice as students make changes based on your feedback. Here's a rubric with room to add more skills/ standards.

Requirement	1	2	3	4	
Effectively introduce characters and people.				Writer introduced people and characters with enough context for the reader to connect with.	
Help the reader understand sequences of events clearly				Writer managed the flow of time and events well. Paragraph breaks, verb tenses, transition words were all used effectively.	
Meaningful conclusion				The piece concluded with a solid ending, providing closure and a sense of meaning.	