

Name _____



Family Faith Autobiography

Your assignment is to write a “family faith autobiography” that tells the story/stories of how your family came to have the faith and beliefs they now have.

None of us starts from “square one” in faith. Faith is like a “disease” that we “catch” from others. So the major part of your assignment will be **to interview** your parents, grandparents, and other significant people in your life (other relatives, spiritual leaders, etc.) about their faith and record (write down) what they tell you..

You are provided here (on a separate page) with an *interview outline* to help you to do this. Please make **multiple copies** of this outline and use one for each of the persons you interview. You must do a minimum of three interviews using this outline; most of you will need to do many more than three to get a full picture of the story of your family’s faith. **The first of these is due on September 4, 5, or 6 (depending on your day of class). The second is due on September 12, 13, or 14. The third (and any others you do) on October 1, 2, or 3. You may turn them all in earlier than this if you wish. All interview outline forms will be returned to you.**

The stories of the relatives you interview should form **the major part** of your paper. Please do **not** begin with your own thoughts on what you believe or your own religious experiences. You must first, and at some length, record the beliefs and experiences of your elders (brothers and sisters, unless they are much older than you, do not qualify as candidates to be interviewed, nor do classmates or teachers unless you can show that they have had a serious impact on your own faith)!

After you have heard and recorded (taken notes on) the stories of your parents, grandparents, and others, then you **might** consider the same questions as applied to your own life. What are the stories and people that have been important in your faith development thus far?

Be honest. Don’t be afraid of your doubts and questions regarding faith or beliefs. What do you *truly* believe? What are you unsure about? What are you sure you **don’t** believe? Where do you agree fully with your family? Where do you disagree? What areas of faith would you like to explore more fully? Remember that *faith is a journey* and none of us has “arrived.” The important thing is to seek God’s guidance and keep moving!

Also remember that this part of the paper, your personal beliefs, is NOT as important as the part about your family’s story. If you want, you can be very brief when explaining your own beliefs — one or two sentences brief!

This paper is required for two important reasons. First, because you will be studying the faith traditions of others this year, it's important for you to consider and come to an understanding of your own tradition and belief.

Second, your teacher wants to know more about you in this arena.

Your final faith autobiography must

- be a minimum of 1700 words,
- be typewritten in 12 point type (Times New Roman)
- have one inch margins on all sides
- have numbered pages.
- be double-spaced
- use the formatting you've learned in language arts classes

You'll get extra credit for making the paper visually interesting; that is, see if you can include photographs of significance (*please note that photographs do not count in the length of the paper — there must be 1700 words!*).

It is expected that you will include quotes from others in your paper. If quotes are more than one sentence long, they need to be *single-spaced* and *indented* on both sides (you will be shown an example of this in class. If you're not sure you're doing it right, please ask your teacher).

Though it must be at least 1700 words in length, there is no upper limit on how long the paper can be. Whatever the length, it should thoroughly cover the story of your family's faith and how it came to be.

The completed paper is due on November 5, 6, or 7. You have 72 days to finish this paper, but be careful not to procrastinate and put this off. You could finish the paper in much less time if you get to work on it right away!

This paper will be count for 33% of your grade in this course this trimester.