

Photo Story Assignment 1

A. Familiarize yourself with the program Photo Story.

- Access Photo Story in the Language Resource Center (Meier 145); the shortcut is located within the desktop folder “Media Programs.”
- You can also download the free software on your own computer from Microsoft (find link on CourseVU).
- Be aware of the hours when the Language Resource Center is open during the week. Plan your group work accordingly.

B. Compose a short story told mostly in the past tense.

1) Choose 6 – 8 images.

- Images may be found on-line, for example on Google Images at <http://images.google.fr>
- Images may be taken with your own camera (of yourself, classmates, other friends, family, figurines, etc!)

2) Write a story to correspond to the images (or write the story first and then find the images).

- The story should be written primarily in the passé composé. You will insert the text of the story over each slide. Be certain to distinguish between verbs which require AVOIR and those which require ETRE as the helping verb.
- The story can be written in the third or first person or it can consist of a dialogue exchange between 2 or more people.
- The story can be biographical or fictional, serious or silly (as long as it's accurate).
- Include a voice-over for the introductory slide, as in the example posted on CourseVU. For now, don't worry about recording a voice-over for each additional slide; you may do this at a later time.

3) In addition to incorporating the passé composé, you should bring in vocabulary and structures from the first half of the textbook. Think of this as a way to review and recycle material from first semester (or your high school studies).

- You should estimate 1 – 2 sentences per slide or one dialogue exchange between characters.
- Provide a wide range of vocabulary and structures as well as rich content.
- Do not write your sentences first in English and then try to translate into French. Focus on using vocabulary and structures that you are familiar with; it is preferable to write simply constructed sentences which are accurate rather than complex sentences which are awkward and inaccurate. Keep your sentences relatively simple. You do not yet have the vocabulary

and grammatical structures to write about abstract ideas. Focus on facts, actions, and feelings.

- That said, do work to incorporate two-clause sentences as well as sentences which express cause and effect (using *parce que*). • Finally, do not begin every sentence with the same subject/subject pronoun.

- Vary your sentence structure by:

Using a different SUBJECT:

J'ai dansé avec mes amis. Nous aimons le rock.

Starting with WHEN:

**Après les cours, j'ai regardé un feuilleton.
Vendredi soir j'ai mangé avec mes amis.**

Starting with WHERE:

A l'université de Valparaiso, j'ai étudié les maths et le commerce.

- Try not to get bogged down in searching for photos and developing the perfect plot of your story. Spend most of your time on composing accurate and content-rich sentences that use the passé composé and incorporate lots of review material.

- Be creative and have a sense of humor but stay focused on grammatical accuracy and structural variety. Please let me know if you have any technical questions.