

design your story

Learn how a little time travel can inspire the stories you scrapbook. BY CATHY ZIELSKE

Welcome to my new column, *Design Your Story!* Stories are at the heart of why we scrapbook. Here, I'll be sharing ideas to help you document the memories that matter in new and creative ways. Sometimes, having a journaling challenge is all you need to make your next favourite layout. For this issue, we're going to look at scrapbooking spans of time. I adore this approach to storytelling and am excited to share a few helpful pointers. Let's go!



STORY TIP: Write to your subject directly.

The words tend to come easier this way.
Tell them what you see, what has changed, etc.

layout 1

COLLEGE MOVE-IN DAY

I can't think of a more life-changing moment for any young adult than the college dorm move-in day. When my daughter left for her freshman year at a huge midwestern university, a whole four hours away from the home she'd known her whole life, we were in for a bit of a bumpy ride.

Two years and two school transfers later, she found her place at a small liberal arts college just an hour's drive away and the transformation has been wonderful to watch.

STORY TIP: Combine multiple moments on a single page. My story covers starting school... twice. By putting both of these big events together on a single layout, I'm able to share all the facets of my daughter's college journey. Had I kept these occasions separate, on their own individual layouts, I wouldn't have been able to get to the heart of what I wanted to say in nearly the same way.

you are here

supplies CARDSTOCK: Bazzill Basics; PATTERNED PAPER: Studio Calico; CHIPBOARD: Jasmine Jones; ELECTRONIC CUT FILES: CZ Design; FONT: Archer; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L

layout 2

BEFORES AND AFTERS

After 17 years of living in our home, my husband and I decided to do a (ahem) *little* remodeling project back in 2010. The change to our home was nothing less than transformative on so many levels, but I had never documented the experience for our family album until creating this page.

STORY TIP: Let your visuals do much of the talking. When deciding whether or not to go the before-and-after route, think of your photos. Do you have visual examples of a transformation that has taken place? Pairing such pictures (instead of just showing the after) can make a bigger impact.

PHOTO TIP: Set up your digital photo library by year and month. This makes it a cinch to then locate photos for pages celebrating annual events, such as the first day of school, holidays, and favourite seasons.

the place

supplies CARDSTOCK: Neenah Paper; PATTERNED PAPER, ACRYLIC TITLE: Close to My Heart; FONT: Avenir; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L; OTHER: Epoxy circles



Download Cathy's free digital template and create your own *before and after* scrapbook page. Get it here:

scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-files

See more of Cathy's pages and stories at cathyzielske.com

DESIGN TIP: Place all of your content right down the center of the page to create a unified story block of photos and words.



TIME SPAN STORY IDEAS:

- 1 First day of school photos.** My heart leaps seeing my children grow on this significant day each year. Especially as I compare childhood to their teenage years.
- 2 Relationships.** Take a photo of you and your significant other from when you first met and pair it with one from present day. What do you still adore about your special person? What has changed? What has stayed the same?
- 3 Family movie night** over the years, or even just over the course of one month. What movies did you watch when your kids were little? How about as they have grown? You don't even need photos for these. Just snap a picture of the DVD (or VHS!) cases.
- 4 Document the change of seasons.** From the same vantage point, snap a photo of your house or street four times over the course of a year. The outcome will be a great look at how your surroundings change with the calendar.