

# design your story

Story first or photo first? Great news—either way works!

BY CATHY ZIELSKE

**What comes first, the story or the photo?** Sometimes we get hung up on the best way to document, but the fun thing is that either way will result in wonderful layouts and albums if you just keep a few simple ideas in mind. Let's explore both methods!

## layout 1

### STORY FIRST APPROACH

**There are moments that stand out in life.** My daughter's first semester of college is one of those times for me. She chose a large university four hours from home, and it just wasn't the right fit for her. She recently graduated from a small liberal arts college that was the perfect fit, but I can still recall the joy I felt when I went to bring her home from that big school. To tell this story, I simply went through my photo library to find a shot from the weekend that I picked her up.

### STORY TIP: Include both sides.

While I experienced joy and relief, my daughter's experience was mixed because her dreams of a big school experience were not to be. Try to include as much detail as possible, including the perspectives of all who are part of the story you're telling.

### DESIGN TIP: Embellish in threes.

Note my three gatherings of florals and hearts—these stickers connect the design by forming a visual triangle. Coordinated collections make it so easy to mix and match elements that all work beautifully together.



## oh happy day

**supplies** CARDSTOCK, PATTERNED PAPER, GEMS, RIBBON, STICKERS: Close To My Heart; DIE: CZ Design for Simon Says Stamp; FONT: Avenir; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L, Therm O Web

### DESIGN TIP: Use a tag for your title.

I used a tag die to serve as my page title. Tags are fun to embellish and really quite versatile!



THIS STORY

### when aidan went to natties

When Aidan and the St. Olaf Women's Ultimate team, a.k.a. Vortex, headed off to the D3 Natties in Rockford, Ill., they probably had hopes, but coming in seeded 7th, no one was betting on any outcomes, just a great all-around competition. But methodically, Vortex began to win. One game. Then another. Then another until finally they were in the quarterfinals, then the semis and then it happened: they earned a spot in the finals at the DIII Nationals.

And then the sky opened up with torrential rains, lightning, tornado sirens—a classic midwestern storm. All the teams retreated into the field house for about three hours but when play resumed, Vortex came out with a fierce determination and ended up pushing past the Williams team in the end, with my girl catching the winning throw from Tulsa.

I still remember standing on the sideline as the official team photographer with tears running down my face. The joy in their celebration is something I will remember for the rest of my days. The pride of watching your child be the best at something is such a gift. I am so grateful that my daughter has been involved with this remarkable team and this incredible community of ultimate. MAY 2018



## layout 2

### PHOTO FIRST APPROACH

We all have photos that bring us joy. A shot of my daughter with the winning catch in hand from a national ultimate tournament is that photo for me. All that was needed was the story to go along with it! Using the *Stories I Love* (see sidebar) method made it a snap to put this simple but meaningful spread together.

**STORY TIP: Take your time.** Spend time crafting your words when the photo is so special. It will be worth it in the years to come.

**DESIGN TIP: Keep it simple.** These products from Close To My Heart help you keep the focus on the photo and the story without having to stress out over the design.

### natties

**supplies** CARDSTOCK, PATTERNED PAPER, STICKERS: Close To My Heart; DIES: CZ Design for Simon Says Stamp; FONT: American Typewriter; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L, Therm O Web

### STORIES I LOVE

Get to the heart of the stories behind your favourite photos with this album kit.

Close To My Heart and scrapbooking pioneer Stacy Julian have teamed up to create a 6 x 8 album kit designed

to help you tell the stories behind your cherished photos. If you struggle with what to say in your journaling, this kit comes with a workbook to help you flesh out and document those important stories. Plus, you'll get the album, page protectors, patterned paper, cardstock, and stickers—everything to create a meaningful album of stories!

[closetomyheart.com](http://closetomyheart.com)

