

Scrapbook of Murder

SCRAPBOOKING TIPS

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Because of the fragile quality of the photographs Lupe discovered in her mother's attic, Anastasia decided to create a digital scrapbook that could be uploaded to a commercial photo site and printed into a bound album. Printed albums are also great when you want to produce multiple copies of an album for family members.

However, with the wide variety of tools and embellishments available in craft stores, you might want to opt for creating one-of-a-kind scrapbooks. If so, make sure you only use archival quality products that won't discolor your photos over time.

Whether you decide to design a digital album to print or a one-of-a-kind album, keep these tips in mind for the best results:

1. Decide on the theme for your album. You can create an album to commemorate a specific event, such as a birthday or vacation, or a series of chronological albums that span your family's history.
2. Choose a focal-point photograph for each page. Create a layout for the page by adding other photos that are part of that page's "story."
3. Always keep in mind that "less is more." Too many snapshots on one page will look cluttered. Choose no more than three or four of the most representational photos to highlight.
4. Whether you're choosing backgrounds from a digital site or actual scrapbook pages, make sure the printed patterns and colors don't overpower your photos. The photographs are the stars of your album. Backgrounds are meant to enhance, not steal the show.
5. Use page accents, whether digital artwork or purchased embellishments, sparingly. As with backgrounds, you don't want the embellishments to take over the page. You want your photos to stand out. One embellishment per page every few pages is sufficient.
6. Create a title for pages that represent special events.
7. Note the names of each person in a photo, the year or date, and where the photo was taken. Even though you recognize the people in the photos, years from now you may not, and your descendants certainly won't know their names.
8. If you choose to combine photographs with journaling, make certain your spelling is correct.
9. Don't go overboard adding lots of catchy quotes or song lyrics.
10. Remember that you're creating a family heirloom that will be viewed by future generations. Don't editorialize by adding disparaging comments about Aunt Irma or Cousin Tiffany.