

Biography Book Project



This month's book project genre is the biography or autobiography. You will need to select a book that is at an appropriate reading level and is about someone from history you would like to learn about.

This book project will have 4 main parts:

1. Timeline (Due: Thursday, January 31st)
2. Trading Card (Due: Thursday, January 31st)
3. Wax Museum Costume & Props (Due: Thursday, January 31st)
4. Oral Presentation (Will take place on Friday, February 1st)

While reading your book, find out as much information as possible about this person's life and why they're famous. Use the graphic organizer (attached) to help you complete the various parts of your project.

1. TIMELINE

Choose 5-7 major events (or more) in your famous person's life, which you will write and illustrate in a timeline. Your timeline should include a picture/graphic (either drawn or from the internet) for each event along with a brief description of what took place on that date or in that year. The description needs to be typed or neatly handwritten and should be at least one paragraph in length.

The famous person's name should be somewhere on the timeline - large and neat enough to read - with your name underneath. The way in which you create your timeline is up to you, but must show creativity. You can connect pieces of paper to make a longer vertical timeline, use posterboard, construction paper, or come up with your own visual representation. Your timeline will be displayed behind you during the Wax Museum, so make sure it is something you are proud to show others!



2. TRADING CARD

Just like a sports-figure trading card, you will create a super-sized trading card for the biography subject. On the front side, you will draw a picture of your famous person or print a picture from the internet. Use markers, crayons, or colored pencils to

enhance your drawing. You will also decorate the border with pictures or designs that relate to your famous person.

On the back side, you will neatly write or type facts and information about your famous person. Use the template provided to help plan the back of your card, but for your final draft, you can use another piece of paper if you would like, as long as it follows the basic format. You will write important facts or details in paragraph or bullet form, but be sure to write in complete sentences.

Cut out the front and back and glue (with a glue stick) onto construction paper, so the card will be two sided when you are done. On the day of the wax museum, I will have copies ready so that you can trade cards with your classmates or other guests.

3. WAX MUSEUM COSTUME

On Friday, February 1st, we will have a Living Wax Museum, where you will get a chance to dress up as your famous person. We will invite parents and other people in school to attend so try and represent your person as accurately as you can. If you need something you don't have, let me know as soon as possible so I can attempt to find it. You shouldn't have to buy anything for this project. Also, gather as many props as you can, so you'll look and feel as authentic (real) as possible. Bring everything - your clothes, props and speech to school on Thursday, January 31st so we can practice before the Wax Museum on Friday.

4. ORAL PRESENTATION

You will prepare a 2-3 minute speech about your person's life written in the first person. In other words, you should talk as if you are really the famous person ("Hello, I am Martin Luther King, Jr."). Your speech should cover important information about your famous person and what makes him/her an important part of history.

Your speech needs to be written on index cards. Practice saying your speech several times so that you won't have to read it from the index cards when you are performing for your audience. Practice saying the speech with personality and expression. You want your audience to "believe" you are that famous person 😊

Each student will make a presentation to the class to share a few important facts about his or her chosen person. Remember, good speakers speak loudly and clearly, and they look up at their audience. Eye contact is important!

Here are some questions to help guide your presentations. You do not have to answer all of these questions, but they may help you plan out your speech.

1. When and where was he/she born? Describe his/her childhood and family.
2. Did he/she get married? If so, to whom did he/she marry and did he/she have any children? What was his/her family like?
3. What kind of education did he/she receive? Where or did he/she attend college?
4. What, if any, hardships (rough times or challenges) did he/she endure (have to go through) before becoming famous?
5. Why is he/she famous? How did he/she become famous?
6. What are other interesting facts about the person and his/her life?

RUBRIC

1. The timeline includes 5-7 major events in your famous person's life, which are typed or neatly handwritten.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

2. The timeline is neatly handwritten or typed.

5 4 3 2 1 0

3. The timeline includes relevant, accurate information and is at least 1 paragraph in length.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

4. The timeline uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

5. The timeline includes 5-7 graphics for each major event.

5 4 3 2 1 0

6. The overall appearance of the timeline is creative and easy to read.

5 4 3 2 1 0

7. The trading card has correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

5 4 3 2 1 0

8. The trading card includes a picture of the famous person and a creative border.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

9. The trading card includes relevant and accurate information.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

10. The trading card is written in complete sentences and is in bullet form or paragraphs.

5 4 3 2 1 0

11. Wax museum costume and artifacts accurately and creatively represents your famous person.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

12. Oral presentation: Spoke loudly, clearly, and slowly.

5 4 3 2 1 0

13. Oral presentation: Spoke in the first person, using language and body movements as your famous person would.

5 4 3 2 1 0

14. Oral presentation was informative and showed knowledge of the subject of the book.

5 4 3 2 1 0

TOTAL: _____/100