

Name _____

Biographers often choose their subjects because they want to learn as much about a particular person as they can. Think about someone from history that you respect and admire very much. Research that person, and write their biography. Your audience will be your classmates, and your purpose should be to interest your classmates in the subject of your biography. Follow the step-by-step process below. Pace yourself by accomplishing these tasks over a series of days.

Task 1: Identify Your Topic: _____

Complete Pre-writing Exercise: What do you already know? What do you want to find out?

When doing your research, consider the following questions:

- Why did you choose this person?
- Where was this person born? In what year?
- How did the time in which this person lived influence what they did and why?
- Would this person be as important if they had been born in another place or time?
- What did this person do for a living?
- How has this person made an impact on others' lives?

Task 2

Visit the library. Identify sources that seem likely to provide you with the information you are seeking. Make a list of at least 3 sources.

Task 3

Do your research. Take notes on information and sources.

Name _____

Task 4

Review your notes. Sort the information you have collected into categories. Consider your categories and create an outline for your biography. Compare your outline to the prompt questions above. Have you collected all the information that you need to answer all of the questions? If not, conduct additional research to fill in the gaps. Update your outline as necessary.

Task 4

Write your first draft. Your first draft will help you to get your facts in order in your biography where they belong. Don't worry if your first draft reads too much like a list of facts. In the next task you will take the facts and shape them into a story.

Task 5

Write your second draft. This time, instead of just writing down the facts from your notes, think about how the information would be relayed if you were writing fiction. Think of the subject of your biography as if he or she were a character in a made-up story. If your research yielded you any interesting quotations, weave them in in this draft to make your biography feel more like a story. For Example:

FIRST DRAFT: Benjamin Franklin grew wise by learning from his experiences.

SECOND DRAFT: We look up to Ben Franklin now because of all the wise advice that he left for us, but he had to learn things the hard way, just like everyone else does. For example, there is a famous story, in which Franklin's mother gives him six pennies to spend any way he wishes. He doesn't understand the value of money, so he trades his six pennies for the first thing he sees that interests him – a half-penny whistle. When he goes home to proudly show his family what he has bought, they scold him for being so foolish as to pay 12 times what something is worth. It spoiled all his pleasure in the whistle, but taught him a lesson that he never forgot.

Task 6

Edit your second draft to produce your final draft. Be sure to check for spelling and punctuation.

Task 7

Compile a bibliography from your sources. Write or type your bibliography. Draw or find an image of the subject of your biography and use the image to create a cover for your work. Place your bibliography at the back of your biography pages and secure all of the pages inside your cover. You're done! Share your work!

ANSWERS WILL VARY