

E-Mag: Biography General Overview and Rubric

Biography: A story of a person's life written, collected, or made by another. Biographies are important documents. They document the lives of individuals, famous or not. Think about the people you'd like to read about and what you'd like to know about them.

When someone writes a biography, they write in a way that answers questions people would ask. As you work on your biography, keep this in mind. What would a reader find interesting? What's *not* important or interesting? **This is one of the hardest parts of writing a biography—deciding what information to keep in and what to keep out, deciding what information is *essential*.**

For your assignment, you will write a two to three page (double spaced) biography on someone who relates to your e-mag theme. Your biography should include an introductory paragraph that explains who the person is, a body that describes how the person grew up and became involved in his/her role, and a conclusion that will tie your biography together. As always, use the rubric to help you judge how your writing is coming along. The following should help you with this assignment.

1. You will start by brainstorming a list of 3-5 people related to the theme of your E-Mag that you would like to research for the biography assignment. This assignment will be sent to you in Google Classroom.
2. Next, you will be asked to complete a mini-research assignment on 2 of the people from your brainstorm list. This assignment will be sent to you in Google Classroom.
3. You will then select 1 person from your mini research assignment to work on for the biography. Selection Form will be sent in Google Classroom.
4. Now your research begins, and you will need to make notes while you learn more about your person selected. We will discuss note-making expectations before you begin this part of the assignment, and at that time, I will provide you with more specific guidelines about moving from notes to writing your rough draft, second draft and final draft. In many ways, the process will be very similar to the one you followed when you wrote your magazine article.
5. Due dates for the different parts of this assignment will be given as we move forward.

Finally, a lot of your writing will happen in class. You may find, however, that some research, brainstorming, or writing needs to happen at home. Good luck, and please ask for help as you need it!

Biography Rubric

	Needs Work	Satisfactory	Outstanding
Mechanics (5 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 or more spelling & grammar errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-14 spelling & grammar errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 or fewer spelling & grammar errors
Paragraph Structure (10 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphs <i>rarely</i> focus on one main idea expressed in topic sentences then supported by details presented in the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphs <i>generally</i> focus on one main idea expressed in topic sentences then supported by details presented in the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphs <i>consistently</i> focus on one main idea expressed in topic sentences then supported by details presented in the body
Writing Structure and Content (35 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing, unclear and or brief/weak introductory paragraph Paragraphs contain <i>little</i> evidence to support topic sentences Written work does <i>not</i> flow; sentence structure rarely varies and transitions are rarely used Ideas <i>not</i> clearly expressed; very little/no showing rather than telling takes place throughout the article Some information is interesting, important and essential Information is not in chronological order Conclusion is missing or does not sum up the main ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory paragraph identifies the subject of the biography Paragraphs contain <i>adequate</i> evidence to support topic sentences Written work flows <i>pretty</i> well; sentence structure is sometimes varied and transitions are present in some paragraphs Ideas expressed <i>somewhat</i> clearly; some showing rather than telling takes place throughout the article Some information is interesting, important and essential Information is sometimes in chronological order Conclusion <i>sort of</i> sums up the main ideas presented and makes me want to learn more about the person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong, interesting introductory paragraph Paragraphs contain <i>substantial</i> evidence to support topic sentences Written work flows <i>very</i> well; sentence structure varies consistently and transitions are present in all paragraphs Ideas expressed <i>very</i> clearly; a whole lot of showing rather than telling takes place throughout the article All information is interesting, important and essential Information is consistently presented in chronological order Conclusion <i>clearly</i> sums up the main ideas presented and makes me want to learn more about the person
Works Cited (5 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used 1 source/not turned in and/or has many mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used 3 sources and/or has some mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used 5 or more sources and has few/no mistakes