

NAME _____ Date _____ Class _____



Author Study/ Biographical Oral Report & Project APEX Language Arts

Your reports and projects are due Thursday, November 20. (eight weeks)

- Use calendar to plan and organize

The oral presentation, written report, PowerPoint presentation, Poem/Novel Critique(s), and two selected projects are all worth 100 points each. Use the rubrics for each section of this project to guide completion and to maximize earned points.

Use the outline, questions, and biography book to organize and create your oral presentation.

Oral Presentation:

Begin your oral book report - try to say something to immediately get our attention. Speak clearly and loudly enough to be heard easily. You are encouraged to make note cards to guide you through your presentation. During your presentation, you need to showcase the other elements of your project. You will need to give a very short talk about the author of your book.

Remember: Concluding a report properly is very important. It doesn't include:
"Well, I guess that's all." **Or** a shrug of your shoulders. Have a prepared ending and know when to stop.
Reports can be no longer than five minutes.

Written Report (Outline and Reading Response Questions):

After reading your biography book, complete the provided **outline** and respond to provided **questions**. Some of the required questions may still not have been answered or up-to-date, so you may use the following reliable resources. Make sure you document **all** resources used (MLA bibliography required).

- <http://www.bartleby.com> - Provides students with unlimited access to books and information on the Web, including 17,000 up-to-date biographical entries.
- <http://www.biography.com> – Features a searchable biographical database of 25,000 famous names.
- <http://www.s9.com> - Biographical Dictionary – contains information on 19,000 notable people from ancient times to the present day; the dictionary is searchable by names, keywords, and dates.
- http://www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/bio/index.htm - Black History Month: Biographies – presents the biographies of significant African American individuals.
- <http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/> - Distinguished Women of Past and Present – includes biographies of women who contributed to our culture, such as writers, educators, scientists, heads of state, politicians, civil rights crusaders, entertainers, and others.



DO YOURSELF A FAVOR - GET BUSY ON THIS NOW!

Works Cited:

MLA format is required to cite all sources. All images, websites, books, etc. must be cited. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Helpful MLA websites:

<http://www.easybib.com>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>

APEX Language Arts

Author Study/Biography Subject Selection Requirements:

- Author or poet from selected list (unless preapproved)
- Read at least 3 poems or 1 novel from selected author
- Read biography book about selected author or poet
- Novel must be within current AR range and not already tested upon as of 10/2/14

Required Projects (rubrics available for each item):

1. Create a **PowerPoint presentation** – highlighting your subject’s life and major achievements. (Must use slide storyboard template for requirements.)
2. Completed **Outline** (must be in outline format provided)
3. Completed **Reading Response Questions**

Additional Required Project:

Pick 2 from the following list as part of your biography project:

1. Create a comic strip illustrating and retelling some event(s) of your subject’s life. This may be extended to tell the whole story of your subject as a comic book.
2. Fashion a mobile from items related to your subject.
3. Design a front page of a newspaper. Write a short news story describing the major accomplishment(s) your subject had in history. Include an attention grabbing headline and teasers for the rest of the paper.
4. Design a detailed map or maps for the setting of the subject’s key moments in history.
5. Create an eye-catching poster highlighting your subject’s life and major achievements.
6. Trading places – write a short paper explaining why you would or would not like to change places with your subject?
7. Be a modern artist - using various mediums, create a collage that comments on a particular theme or issue about your subject.
8. Compile a scrapbook or memory box. As the subject you selected, put together a scrapbook or memory box of special memories and mementoes. Be true to your character.
9. Reporting “Live” from the scene – script and record the major accomplishment of your subject, as if you are the reporter for the 10 o’clock news – “Live at 10” news report (digital video version).
10. Write a diary that your subject might have kept before, during, or after the major accomplishments in the subject’s life. (Create a foldable book.)
11. Make several sketches of some of the events in the book and label them.
12. Complete a diorama (three-dimensional scene that includes models of people, buildings, plants, and animals) of one or more main events from your subject’s life. Include a written description of the scene.



Written Report:

Part 1:

Outline:

I. Introduction: Briefly describe who the person was and what notable thing they did.

A. Hook

B. Thesis

II. Personal Information

A. Birthdate and birthplace

B. Family life

C. Education

D. Occupation(s)

E. Death date and location (or what are they doing now)

III. Accomplishments/Contributions

A. What did the person accomplish that makes him/her memorable?

B. What contribution did they make to society?

IV. Important Characteristics/Qualities

A. What are some important characteristics/qualities that made the person worth reading about?

B. What do you admire about this person?

V. Additional Interesting Facts/Details

VI. Conclusion - Briefly summarize with highlights.

A. Thesis (reworded)

Written Report:

Part 2:

Reading Response Questions:

1. Early Years: Write what you have learned about the person's early years. How did these childhood experiences influence the person's achievements as an adult?
2. Identify at least one character trait this person possessed, and explain how it contributed to his/her success.
3. Explain how this person began in his/her field.
4. Were there any obstacles he/she had to overcome?
5. What is the achievement(s) for which he/she is best known?
6. Describe the goals of this person. Do you think this person was successful? Why or why not?
7. What factors influenced this person's achievements?
8. What influence did this person have on the community, the country, or the world?
9. A six-to-ten sentence paragraph about your feelings about this person.
 - a. Do you admire him/her? Why or why not?
 - b. Would this person have been a good friend?
 - c. Are you inspired because of this person's life? Why or why not?

Poem/Novel Requirements:

1. Poet – must select **three** poems written by the poet
 - a. Title of each poem
 - b. Summarize each poem (your own words)
 - c. Critique each poem (your own words)
 - d. Works Cited for poems selected (MLA format)
2. Author – must read at least one novel by the author following requirements
 - a. Title of the novel
 - b. Summarize novel (your own words)
 - c. Critique (your own words)
 - d. Works Cited for novel selected

Works Cited Information (MLA format)

Book Title _____

Author(s) _____

City of Publication _____

Name of Publisher _____

Year of Publication

Websites used (must document each for all pictures and/or information used)

APEX Language Arts

Author Study/Biography Project Approved Poet and Author List

Poets

1. Maya Angelou
2. Louisa May Alcott
3. Lewis Carroll
4. Emily Dickinson
5. Roald Dahl
6. Robert Frost
7. Rudyard Kipling
8. C.S. Lewis
9. Edgar Allan Poe
10. Shel Silverstein
11. J.R.R. Tolkien
12. Mark Twain

Authors

1. Louisa May Alcott
2. Avi
3. Orson Scott Card
4. Jean Craighead George
5. Stephen Crane
6. Roald Dahl
7. Ernest Hemingway
8. S.E. Hinton
9. Irene Hunt
10. Rudyard Kipling
11. Harper Lee
12. C.S. Lewis
13. Madeleine L'Engle
14. Jack London
15. Scott O'Dell
16. George Orwell
17. Gary Paulsen
18. Elizabeth George Speare
19. John Steinbeck
20. Robert Louis Stevenson
21. Amy Tan
22. J.R.R. Tolkien
23. Mark Twain
24. H.G. Wells
25. Elie Wiesel
26. Paul Zindel

