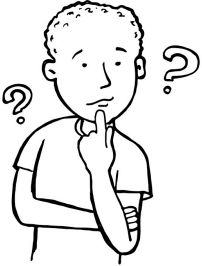


# Oral Biography Project 2019

Presentations will be made between March 28-April 5th

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be another person – perhaps an important saint, athlete, author, inventor, leader, artist, composer, explorer, president, actor, a pioneer in fields like medicine, space travel, education, or industry who changed history? Well, now's your chance! You are about to begin a very exciting project that you will never forget! You will work hard, but you will feel very proud of what you accomplish. You will be choosing an important and positive historical figure to learn about and then present to the class.

- The first step is to pick a biography to read. Your book and biography choice has to be shown to and approved by your teacher no later than Thursday, February 14. Follow the guidelines below to choose an appropriate book and person. Our goal is to have **no duplicate biographies.** There are hundreds of interesting people to learn about, so don't limit yourself to only the most well-known names. It might be a good idea to have two choices just in case! **Make sure you select a book at your reading level.**
- The person you choose should be an historical figure who has made **positive** contributions to society and/or shown exceptional courage or perseverance in the face of adversity. As a general rule their major contributions should have taken place **25 or more** years ago. We are willing to make exceptions for present day people however, so see your teacher ahead of time if you have an idea. Choosing someone you know **little** about will make this a more valuable learning experience for you. You are free to choose most anyone you want, as long as you can find enough quality and approved information on that person and they meet the other requirements. However, you may not choose: Dr. King, Cesar Chavez, Sacagawea, or your Saint.

- **Books should be selected and approved by Thursday the 14th of February. We want you to be able to get started on your reading.** I will share some classroom books that are available and Mrs. Weythman will also go through biographies available in our school library. You may need to plan a trip to the public library as well. **Take care in selecting a book that is at or close to your reading level.** You will also need to **be able to find at least two other sources of information to supplement your presentation.** (Three total)
- **Presentations will be made from March 28- April 5.** We are hoping to get some eager students to present on Thursday the 28<sup>nd</sup> and Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>. We will determine the actual day/time you will present in a few weeks. You will have an opportunity to state a preference if your parents want to come and watch.

## **Oral Biography Requirements**

You will find that many biographies emphasize only certain parts of a person's life. Once you have finished reading your approved book, you will need to find **at least two other sources of information.** This could be the internet, videos, magazines or other books. You will need to include a list of all of your sources (bibliography) on one or more of your index cards or a separate piece of paper. You are to write the bibliography yourself, not your parents. It is good practice! We will review the bibliography format and you will have a sheet in your filer with the reference format. It will also be posted on our website.

When you prepare your oral presentation, you need to consider the following guidelines as you decide what to share about your person. **Some may not apply, but work to include as many as you can. The Contributions section is required in all presentations.** The presentation will be given from the first person perspective; in other words, **you** will become that person!

## WHAT TO INCLUDE:

### 1. Early Years (birth to about age 18)

- Date and place of birth
- Parents (names, occupations and other interesting info)
- Siblings (names, ages, interesting info)
- Special interests and/or achievements.
- Hobbies and any other interesting facts

### 2. Adult Life

- Education
- Occupations and achievements
- Struggles--obstacles
- Married? – If so, to whom, when, where
- Children – names, any interesting information
- Fun stories or events that will add interest to your talk.

### 3. Later Years

- Achievements during these years
- Final facts such as death (date, place, cause, any other relevant facts) or if this person is still living, be sure to tell what he/she is doing at this time

Look for fun stories or anecdotes that you can include in the above sections. Make your talk fun and engaging—not just a list of facts. You are telling the story of your person’s life.

### 4. Contributions – Must be included in each presentation.

- In your opinion what positive contributions did this person make to the world? What can you learn from the life and achievements of this person? This portion of the biography will be in your voice, not as the famous person you are reporting on. Do not leave this section off your presentation and do not make it an afterthought.



# Oral Biography

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grading:** Your presentation will be graded on the following:

- **Creativity of the presentation** including:
  - Introduction – Make it a **Brilliant Beginning!**
  - Development of ideas – see Requirements Page #'s 1-3
  - Conclusion/Contributions in your own words – see Requirements #4
- **Content** – How much important information you have clearly shared. Be sure you explain any unfamiliar words or events so your audience understands.
- **Creative use of props** – You will want to make or find items that will relate to your talk and add interest to the presentation in some way. Your costume is considered one of your props. The props should be relevant to and support your talk.
- **Timing** – minimum 5 minutes, maximum 10 minutes. – Remember, when you are nervous you tend to talk more quickly. *Be sure you have at least a 5-minute presentation.* It should usually be longer than 5 minutes when you practice at home.
- **How well you know your material and are able to explain your life to the class**
- **Eye contact, voice projection, diction, expression**
- **First person presentation**
- **Bibliography and preparedness**

**Length:** **Minimum 5 minutes**  
**Maximum 10 minutes**

- This is important! Students often give presentations that are too short. Remember that you always talk faster when you are nervous, so be sure your timing five and ten minutes. It should probably be longer than 5 min when you practice at home.

**Notes:** You may use 4x6 or 5x7-inch index cards.

**Be sure to:**

- Number your index cards to keep them in order.



- Either write very neatly or type out information and glue them to your cards.
- **Do not put too many words on each card.** Keep it clear and neat. Use a large font if typing.
- **Do not write out your entire talk.** Your cards should **only contain** key words, phrases, dates, names, etc. to remind you what to say as you present. Basically your report should be mostly memorized other than the bullet points on your cards.

**Don't wait to get started. You should begin right away so you are well prepared for your presentation.**

Good luck and have fun!

### **Keep in Mind:**

- You need to be able to find an appropriate book on your subject that you can read and understand **on your own**. Mom or dad can help you read, but this is partially a book report, and you need to be able to understand what you read.
- It is important that you **know** your person **very well**, and that as you present you explain things that the audience might not understand. This includes challenging vocabulary, events in history, or specific terms related to your subject.
- **Practice** saying your report many times. The more you practice, the more natural you will sound and the more confident you will be! You can practice in front of a mirror to check for eye contact, and in front of family and friends to get their feedback.
- Focus on
  - Good voice projection
  - Speaking at a good pace, not too fast
  - Eye contact
  - Opportunities to move around a bit, show or use props
- **Do not begin your report with, "Hi my name is..."**
- Your brilliant beginning should involve some type of scene from the life of your person. It can be from something that happens at any point in your speech, you would just explain briefly what you were doing, then say something like, "Let's start at the beginning...."
- Please let your teacher know if you have any questions along the way. It is important to keep up on this project and work on it a little bit each night

Oral Biography Name: \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_

### Grading Rubric

How well you know your material (x2)	4	3	2	1
Eye contact	4	3	2	1
Voice projection, clarity, pace	4	3	2	1
Expressive First Person Presentation	4	3	2	1
<b>Listened attentively and respectfully to the other presentations</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

**Creativity and Quality of Presentation:**

<b>Introduction</b> (brilliant beginning that grabs audience)	4	3	2	1
<b>Overall Content</b> (spoke about important stages of life) (x2)	4	3	2	1
<b>Conclusion</b> (spoke about contributions, etc.)	4	3	2	1
<b>Props</b> (creative costume and good use of materials)	4	3	2	1
<b>Timing</b> (more than 5 min. and less than 10 min. long)	4	3	2	1
Time: _____				
<b>Preparedness</b> (materials turned in on time)	4	3	2	1
<b>Bibliography</b> (sources correctly noted)	4	3	2	1
Self Reflection Sheet	4	3	2	1

**Total** (60 points possible)



**Final Grade**  
**Comments**