

Oral Biography Project Information and Timeline



We are providing this information to help you plan for the upcoming Oral Biography Projects.

New Presentation Dates: We are moving the presentation dates to the week of **May 10-13**. We will open up time on May 5th and 6th for any students that feel ready.

Step 1: Right now the students should be **reading and rereading** their biography books. As they read the students are encouraged to use sticky notes to mark pages and information that they want to include in their talk for easy.

The following steps will be modeled at school and the students will be given class time during the weeks ahead to start this work. On Friday asynchronous days students are also expected to work on their Oral Biographies. Students will also need to include some extra homework time, especially as we get closer to the presentation dates. Thank you for checking in with your child regularly and talking with them about their biography.

Step 2: Students need at least two other sources of information. This can be other books, magazine articles, internet resources, etc. The students will be making **a bibliography** of their sources. We will have a special template to make the bibliographies and work on them at school.

Step 3: When students have researched and completed reading their material, they will begin planning their talks. We suggest that students break up the talk into sections like **Childhood, Education, Jobs, Adult life/family, Later Years**. **(See original project directions)** These categories will vary depending on the circumstances of the subject.

During this process students should head their note papers with the categories and begin compiling the information they wish to include in their talks.

Step 4: As the notes come together, the next step is to start creating the note cards that will be used during the actual presentation. Students will not be writing out their speech on their note cards, but rather creating bulleted lists that provide enough information to help guide the talk. Some students like to

write or type a speech to practice from, and that is an option. The final note cards can be typed or hand-written.



Step 5: Practice the speech. Students should practice in front of mirrors, family members, or even on Zoom calls with friends or family. The more practice the better. Remember to use the PVLEGS!

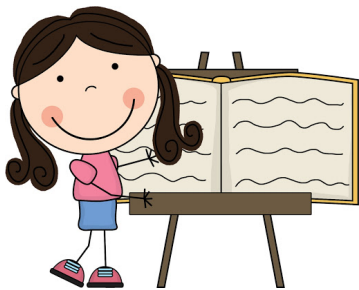
Ongoing steps that should happen throughout the process:

Props: Students are expected to have 3 or more props for their presentation. The costume is considered one prop. The props chosen should **support and enhance** the presentation. We prefer the students **do not** use a PowerPoint presentation, as we want the focus to be on the oral presentation.

Prop examples include but are not limited to:

- Posters, timelines, maps or other visuals that can be referred to during the presentation.
- Students may want to have some pictures they can display with the Elmo on the Smartboard. Zoomers and “Share their Screen”.
- Physical props that tie into the talk. For example, Florence Nightingale is known as the “Lady with the Lamp” so a lantern would be a meaningful prop.

Be creative with props. They can be handmade, or items you find around your home. The important thing is that the props are included in the presentation in some way. They should not just sit on a table without being used or mentioned.



Planning a Brilliant Beginning:

As students are reading they have been encouraged to think about scenes that could make interesting brilliant beginnings. Often this may be an event or pivotal moment in the subject’s life. Props are often an important part of the brilliant beginning.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions. On the next pages you will find additional information on the project and how it will be scored.

Oral Biography



explain

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 use 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 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, etc. to remind you what to say as you present. Basically your report should be mostly memorized the bullet points on your cards.



names,
other than

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 |

Listened attentively and respectfully to the other presentations

4 3 2 1

Creativity and Quality of Presentation:

Introduction (brilliant beginning that grabs audience) 4 3 2 1

Overall Content (spoke about important stages of life) (x2) 4 3 2 1

Conclusion (spoke about contributions, etc.) 4 3 2 1

Props (creative costume and good use of materials) 4 3 2 1

Timing (more than 5 min. and less than 10 min. long) 4 3 2 1

Time: _____

Preparedness (materials turned in on time) 4 3 2 1

Bibliography (sources correctly noted) 4 3 2 1

Self Reflection Sheet 4 3 2 1

Total (60 points possible)



Final Grade

Comments