

Biography

Biographies allow you to stand on the shoulders of giants. They allow you to enter the life of real people who are extra-ordinary. They can



inspire you to see the world in a different way and give you strength to believe in yourself to be authentic and real. If you've been asked to write a biography a great place to start is to find a biography and read it. Then think about a

person you are personally interested in which has inspired, helped, or had a powerful impact on your community, family, school, personally, or anywhere in the world. Then, find a book about them (or written by them) and get started!

1. Title and Introduction

The title should include the name of the person you are writing about.



By now you should know what a biography is. If you are still unsure, find out! You need to have a general understanding of what a biography is used for before you continue the following frameworks. You will also need to think about your level of enthusiasm about this person. If it is high it will bring greater depth and meaning to your work. Biographies should inspire and impact your life and the lives of others.

Tasks

- **Think** about a person you are personally interested in which has inspired, helped, or had a powerful impact on your community, family, school, personally, or anywhere in the world.
- **Decide** on this person now and note others that come to mind.
- **Write** a title for your biography
- **Write** an opening paragraph about this person

Things to think about

Do you know this person? Tell the reader whom you are writing about.

Give the reader inspiring information that explains why you think this person is worth knowing.

Start writing now - let it flow and don't get too stuck on making it perfect, this will come later. Good luck.

2. Research your person

Tasks

- **Research** your person
Find out more about this person by completing a Google search, talk to people who know this person, read books or articles about this person.
- **Write** notes about the events this person experienced and put these findings into chronological order – the order they happened.

Things to think about

- What is significant about this person?
- How did he or she change the world?
- What would happen if this person never existed?
- What is unique about what they did or made?



This will take a lot of time. Highlight the significant events that helped shape the person's life. These things will add a lot of meaning to your biography.

You may even think about doing an interview (see the interview in YPI Classroom)

3. Write your biography as a narrative

Narratives can inspire, entertain and impact others and can be written in a way that draws the reader into your writing. You have a great opportunity to take control, be creative and see how you can move people with your writing skills.

Task

- Bring your subject to life, use all you know about writing into your work to make your reader feel like they REALLY KNOW this person!



If you have writer's block. Just start anywhere and put the pieces together later. The important thing is to trust what you have learned and start writing about this person. Get inspired, let your writing flow. Don't be stuck on too much structure, be honest about how this person makes you feel and tell us why.

4. Conclusion

Tasks

- Summarise the most important aspects of your person's life
- Provide a closing statement which will inspire and encourage your readers

Your conclusion will draw on the main points of your introduction. It will focus on the importance of what you have shared in your writing. For example, you may have written about the determination of an athlete that lost a leg through



an accident but went on to climb Mount Everest. The conclusion would include how this relates to our personal lives and inspires us to never give up and to always challenge ourselves.

Edit your work and present it!