

Famous Person Report

For this project you will research the life of a famous person, make note cards, and do an oral presentation as if you were the person. You will memorize your presentation, dress in a costume you assemble, and start by saying, "Hello, my name is _____." Your presentation will be from two to three minutes in length.

Choose Your Person

The first job is to choose your person. You need to have two choices. You may not do the same person someone else in our class is doing. Your parent and your teacher need to approve your choice. We have a short list of names included in this packet to guide you in selecting your famous person. These are suggestions only, hardly a complete list!

Your person needs to be someone who has made a significant contribution to history. For example, your person can be an explorer, an artist, a leader, a scientist, an inventor, an author, or a person who helped to shape history or culture in an important way. It cannot be a *contemporary* sports or entertainment figure. Your person can be male or female, living or not, and from any country.

Your person needs to be famous. Lots of people have interesting, remarkable lives, but they aren't really famous. To check on this, do the "name or accomplishment test". Tell seven adults the name or accomplishment of your person. Five adults out of seven should recognize the person.

Gather Information

Second, on your own you need to get two written sources of information about your person. At least one source has to be a real book that you can hold in your hands and that you can read in a couple of week's time. Your book cannot be fiction. Go to the non-fiction or reference section of the library. Your presentation has to be two to three minutes long, so you don't need a huge book from the adult section. Your second source could be another non-fiction book, an encyclopedia or the Internet. In class we will talk about listing sources. If you use a source on the computer, you need to write down that source or web site so that your teacher could go to the exact same site. You can't just say "the Internet". That is like saying, "the library".

You need to do some of your own research at home. You need to use materials that are appropriate for your reading level. Your older sibling may have learned a lot about Babe Ruth or Betsy Ross, but you need to do your own reading and note taking. Part of the purpose here is to learn about research. Important: Your parent can help you find materials, but you do the reading and the note taking!

Note Cards

As you do your reading in class and at home, you will write 6 note cards in printing or cursive with this information:

1. Your person's name information about their birth, and their main accomplishment
2. Early years, family information, childhood stories
3. Education, training, career preparation
4. Accomplishments
5. Later years
6. Bibliography

You also will use one note card to list each of your sources for your bibliography. You won't read these in your presentation, but you will turn them in. They are part of your grade. I will provide you with the format in class.

Memorize the Report

Next, you memorize your report. Your oral speech needs to be longer than two minutes and shorter than three minutes. You can hold your note cards and look at them occasionally, but your grade will go down if you are reading your report. You need to say it as if you were really the person. We will have time in class to practice, but you do the memorizing at home.

A Costume

Next, you need to assemble a simple costume that you can put on by yourself at school. Our presentations will be outside on the yard, and it could be foggy and cool or sunny and hot on a May morning, so plan for that.

Guests

Parents and other classes will be invited to our presentations. All the kids will be spread out on the yard and our guests will go from person to person, listening to presentations, so you may tell your story a dozen times or more. You need to stand up and speak clearly. Your behavior all during presentations is part of your grade.

Grades

Your grade will be based on accuracy of information, following directions, meeting deadlines, and your presentation. Your grade will be hurt by being late on deadlines, a report that is too short or too long, reading the report instead of memorizing, not having a costume, and inappropriate behavior during the presentations.

Book Report

Your 6 note cards will be considered your book report for the month of March.

They will be due on Wednesday, March 31st. Refer to the Note Card section on the previous page. **We will take some class time to teach how to take notes for research reports.** I expect all students to have a minimum of 5 notes per card (that's 25 interesting pieces of information about your famous person). If you are having trouble finding the minimum of 5 interesting facts about your famous person for each card, perhaps they are not that famous! I realize that some individuals may not have a lot of information recorded about them, especially if they lived long ago. You may need to use several sources to search for information. Please seek help if you are having trouble finding information about your famous person.

Label each note card with your name at the top of the right hand side and the title of the card on the first line at the top.

- 1. Birth & Main Accomplishment**
- 2. Early Years**
- 3. Education and training**
- 4. Accomplishments**
- 5. Later Years**
- 6. Bibliography**

Name of Famous Person	My Name
Birth & Main Accomplishment	
1. Born March 20, 1906	
2. Born in Philadelphia Pennsylvania	
3. Parents: Jeremiah and Judith Fitzsimmons	
4. Siblings: Esther, Josia, Bobby	
5. Youngest of 4	
6. Most famous for	

Early Years	My Name
1. Attended school from Kinder to 4 th grade	
2. Left school at 9 to help family raise younger siblings	
3. Grandparents - a strong influence on his behavior	
4. Mischievous – always seemed to get into trouble	
5. Interest in experiments at an early age	

Ideas for Famous People

Females

Susan B. Anthony – Crusader for women’s rights
Harriet Tubman – Underground Railroad
Rosa Parks – Rights for all citizens regardless of skin color
Amelia Earhart – Air Flight
Marie Curie – Heroine of Science
Cleopatra – Queen of Egypt
Betsy Ross – Maker of American flag
Emily Dickinson – Poet
Laura Ingalls Wilder – Author of Children’s Books
Pocahontas – Native American
Helen Keller – Deaf & Blind Student
Anne Sullivan – Helen Keller’s Teacher
Mary McLeod Bethune – Teacher
Maria Montessori – Teacher trainer
Florence Nightingale – Nurse

Males

Van Gogh – Artist
Leonardo DaVinci - Artist
Monet - Artist
Albert Einstein – Artist of Science
Benjamin Franklin – Inventor, master of many trades
Thomas Edison – Inventor of the light bulb
Alexander Graham Bell – Inventor of the telephone
Louis Pasteur – Pasteurization
Galileo – Astronomer
Samuel F. B. Morse – Instant Communication
Louis Braille – Books for the blind
Harry Houdini – Magician
Christopher Columbus – Explorer
Robert E. Lee – Civil War – Confederate Army
George Washington – 1st U.S. President
Thomas Jefferson – 3rd U.S. President
Abraham Lincoln – 16th U.S. President
Martin Luther King, Jr. – Rights for all citizens regardless of skin color
Frederick Douglass – Anti Slavery
Henry David Thoreau – Writer
Ralph Waldo Emerson – Writer
Robert Louis Stevenson – Writer
John Muir – Protector of the Wilderness
Ralph Waldo Emerson – Writer

Be a Better Speaker

Use the following questions to help you be a better speaker

_____ Did I look at my audience? Did I make eye contact?

_____ Is the volume of my voice loud enough?

_____ Did I practice what I was going to say in front of the mirror or in front of my family?

_____ Did I take my time and speak CLEARLY and SLOWLY?

_____ Did I practice enough so I will not be nervous?

_____ Did I make note cards that are clear and easy for me to remember my speech?

*****cut here*****

Return this form by Friday March, 12 (the latest! – 1st come 1st serve ☺).

Name of Famous Person _____

Alternative choice _____

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____