

Social Justice Project - 2007-2008

Biography Study Component - Focus on Social Justice

Premise: The Catholic Church is planning to offer a special Mass at the Vatican in honor of the one person alive or dead who has had the most significant impact on the social conscience of the world. The Pope would explicitly like to recognize a lay person who has not previously come to the attention of the Church and who is not now and has not been at any point in the past considered for sainthood. The candidate does not have to be Catholic or even necessarily religious in order to qualify for this special honor.

Assignment:

- **Read a biography about someone who has had a significant impact on the social justice issue your group is currently investigating. The biography may be about someone who is living or dead, but must meet the following requirements:**
 - Biography should be at your reading level **and be a minimum of 100 pages**. If you cannot find a biography written about the person who you would like to investigate, you may request prior approval to read other information about the person provided you can find at least 100 pages through a combination of articles, newsletters, internet sources, interviews, etc.
 - Biography should **avoid American History** (specifically American heroes who you are likely to study in 8th Grade American History).
 - Biography should **avoid Saints** (or other high profile people in the Catholic Church whom you are likely to study in Religion this year or whom you may be investigating as a saint whose name you may choose for Confirmation).
 - Biography should **avoid sports heroes** unless the athlete has had a definite impact by raising awareness about this specific social justice issue either in the United States or internationally.
 - Biography should be **non-fiction**.
 - An **autobiography** is fine.
- **Project (outlined below) will count as a test grade in Literature (written) and a test grade in English (oral).**
- **Turn in the attached form by no later than Tuesday, October 23, 2007.**
- **Projects are due at the beginning of class on Friday, January 18, 2008.**
- **Oral Presentations of your projects will begin Tuesday, January 22, 2008.**

The Biography project has 5 different components:

You must complete all 5 parts of this assignment.

- 1) **Compose a cover letter** outlining the social justice issue that you and your group are investigating and the impact that your subject has had on the issue. Your letter should explain to the selection committee why you feel that this person is deserving of this honor. This is essentially your letter of recommendation for this candidate.

(NOTE: Microsoft Word has several built-in templates which may help you in writing a cover letter. You will need to use standard **business letter format**.)

- 2) **Create a résumé.** Your candidate's résumé will support your nomination of this person for the award: "**The Most Influential Person in the Area of Social Justice.**"

Your "candidate's" resume should highlight: education, experience, specific qualifications, professional development, activities, and interests. The goal or objective of the resume should specifically address why this particular person may be worthy of the above honor.

If your candidate does not have formal education to list or formal job titles, feel free to list relevant Life Experience.

* **Attached** should be a **separate list** of at least **3 personal or professional references**. References could be colleagues, contemporaries, subordinates, superiors, or opponents. Reference Information must include Name, Contact Information, **and a Rationale Annotation**.

Again, **Microsoft Word** has 4 built-in templates which may help you in drafting a résumé.

And / Or refer to:

<http://www.collegegrad.com/resumes/quickstart.shtml>

a site that has several different free down-loadable résumé organized by field of study and quite a bit of helpful information regarding things to consider when building a résumé.

There may be other helpful sites if you do a bit of searching on the internet or feel free to ask your parents or another adult for assistance in finding a résumé format.

(Be sure to accurately document any sources that you use in your **works-cited** page in MLA format. These resources will **also** need to be listed in the annotated bibliography due in March.)

- 3) **Design an informational poster** highlighting your subject's strengths and qualifications as "**The Most Influential Person in the Area of Social Justice.**" The poster must include the candidate's name and picture, and an **original slogan** that you feel encompasses who he or she is and his or her or impact on the social conscience of world. The poster should be standard poster-board size and is **not** to include the above- mentioned résumé or cover letter.
- 4) **Prepare a persuasive speech** in which you highlight the strengths and weaknesses of your subject with respect to the position sought. Essentially, you will be campaigning for the position of "**The Most Influential Person in the Area of Social Justice**" on behalf of your candidate. The speech should be between 3 and 5 minutes. **A typed rendition of the speech should be turned in with the other 4 elements of the project on Friday, January 18, 2008.** You may choose to create one 3X5 note card to reference (not read) during your speech, but will need to prepare this card prior to turning in your speech as you will not get the speech back before your presentation.
- 5) Submit a typed **Works Cited Page in proper MLA format** including all of the resources that you used in completing this part of your Social Justice Project.

NOTE: January 18 is a **check point due date**. Rough draft test grades will count in the 3rd quarter. Final draft grades for this project will be part of your Social Justice Binder due on May 5, 2008.