

Faces of History 5 paragraph research paper on a famous person

My paper will be on _____.

Phase 1: Research

Read anything you can find about this person. Use library books, timeline cards, the *Story of the World* books, history books, or the internet (I recommend sites that say “for kids”).

Now, think three topics.

You need to organize your information into 3 topics or “themes” about your person.

Here are some suggestions:

- Their childhood/what life was like when they were young
- Their personality/quirky things they did/what made this person unique
- Their clothes (if this was a big deal to him or her)
- The thing that they are famous for doing
- The thing that they invented
- Their adult life/unusual things they did or things that happened to them
- How they got to be famous
- Their second biggest accomplishment
- How this person affected the rest of history (science, technology, government, etc)

The three topics that I think I will write about are:

Topic A _____

Topic B _____

Topic C _____

Next, take notes on the first topic. This will become body paragraph #1. Take notes from at least 2 sources (three sources is best, but 2 will do.)

Take notes on the 2nd theme from at least 2 sources (they can be the same sources or different sources, it doesn't matter.)

Take notes on the 3rd theme.

Stop and Think. Do you still think these are the best 3 choices? If not, or if one is really short, you can change the theme. Do you need to find more information? You can look again for more info if you need it. Think about the order...what order would be most exciting? Save the biggest and best for the last.

Now, write a sentence that mentions each of the three themes. This is called a thesis statement. Be sure to mention the 3 topics in the order in which they will appear. It might go something like this:

This famous person (insert their name) is a remarkable face of history because they

_____, _____, and _____.

Phase 2: Write the Rough Draft of the Body Paragraphs

Look at the notes for topic A. Read through them all.

Stop and think: what bit of info would be interesting to start off with? What should you save for last? What notes are about the same kind of thing? Is there anything that isn't really related to this theme?

Now create a fused key word outline for topic A by thoughtfully combining the notes from all sources and arranging them into the best order you can work out.

Next, brainstorm and use the thesaurus to get some good adjectives and -ly words and metaphors and similes. Add these into your KWO.

Write a rough draft of this paragraph. Keep the list of dress-ups handy so you can work them in as you write.

Repeat this process with topic B.

Phase 3: Write the Rough Draft of Topic C and add Dress-ups

The third theme is the most exciting theme, so spend some extra time on this one. Go back through all 3 body paragraphs and make sure all paragraphs have all the dress-ups according to the checklist. Read your paper aloud to your mom or dad and see if they understand it all. If anything is confusing, re-work the sentence until it's just right.

Phase 4: Introduction and Conclusion Paragraphs

The introduction paragraph should give us some general background info on the person and time period in which he or she lived. The last sentence of the introduction will be your thesis statement.

The first sentence of the conclusion paragraph will be your thesis statement again. (You can change some of the words to add a little variety, but be sure to mention the three themes again.)

- Then, tell us what is the most significant thing about the person.
- What is most noble about this person?
- Should young people strive to be like this person? Why or why not?
- Are we affected by what this person did or discovered?

Create a title from the last sentence of the conclusion.