9th Grade ELA

Phillip O. Berry Academy

**LIVING WAX MUSEUM**

Your assignment is to research a famous person and create a characterization of this person to be included in the class's living wax museum. This person can be currently living, or someone who is deceased. It will most likely be the most beneficial for you to choose someone who you view as a role model, someone who is/was involved in something you are passionate about, or someone who is/was involved in the profession you are interested in pursuing in the future.

There are three components to this independent research assignment:

* A **three-page** typed biography
* A 1-2 minute monologue (speech)
* Participation in the Living Wax Museum

1. **Three-Page Biography**
   1. This biography is to be both researched by YOU and written by YOU. By researching this person, you will be better equipped to portray this person in the wax museum. Your biography will also include a separate **works-cited** page that is not counted toward the three-page biography.
   2. When you are researching, remember to use *credible* websites and avoid those written by unknown people, Wikipedia.com, and entertainment sites like TMZ and US magazine. These aren’t confirmed, reliable information.
   3. Your font should not be **Times New Roman, 12-point font** and double space. You need to have at least three sources. Remember to avoid some of the Your biography must include:
      1. Who is this person?
      2. When were they born/when did they die (if they are no longer living)?
      3. Where did they grow up?
      4. What was their contribution to society/their profession?
      5. Why should we know/care about this person?
      6. Any other interesting/notable information/awards/achievements from this person.
2. **Monologue**
   1. This is a speech written and spoken by you as that person. You must attempt to sound as that person would sound—accents, slang/jargon/tone of voice, inflection changes, etc. The research you do on this person will help you decipher what they might sound/speak like, for example the era they grew up in or their level of education might clue you into how they might’ve sounded. The speech should be talking about their experiences, their life, or a particular event in their life and why/how it was important.
   2. You will also need to have movements as you speak that are relevant to the character you chose. You may use props to help recreate a scene that we might find them in. The monologue can include some things that the person has actually said or you can entirely create things for them to say. It must, however, be relevant to the person you chose and appropriate and represent your person well. You will turn a written copy of your speech, however this ***MUST*** be memorized!
   3. Remember: This monologue is an embodiment of the person you have chosen. Everything that goes into this speech should be as if the person themselves were presenting it. Therefore, the speech should be in first-person.
3. **Living Wax Museum**
   1. You will be assigned a spot in the media center according to how much space your presentation requires. You will be required to "strike a pose"/freeze in one position and be that person for the wax museum. Other classes will be invited to come visit our wax museum. Our wax museum will be unique because our wax figures (you) will move and speak. You will perform your monologue and movements when you are touched on the shoulder; until then, you are frozen in your stance. When your monologue is finished, you will return to your original pose. This will take precise blocking and timing on your part. Preparation is the key to your success!
   2. You will need to bring all of your required props on Wax Museum Day, including a costume. You must wear something that is representative of the person and easily recognizable as something the person might wear. You will be given time to set up your area and get dressed, then when the museum opens, you will then be a statue!

This will be a fun way to cover biographies, how to format a research paper, and is a way to showcase your talent as speakers! I know that our visitors will really enjoy it. But, it is very important that you take this seriously. Success is dependent upon YOU. Others around the school will be watching. Have fun with your project and let your creativeness shine! There is no ceiling for your innovation! We are all looking forward to your performance.

***Paper due date: March 30th***

***Museum: April 3rd***

***Absolutely no exceptions.***

**Research Paper Rubric**

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| **Requirement** | **Points** |
| 3 Pages, double-spaced  Paragraph format  1 Introductory paragraph, at least 3 Body paragraphs discussing events and information about the famous person’s life, 1 Conclusion paragraph  *\*\*\*Each paragraph is a minimum 5 sentences each\*\*\** | \_\_\_\_\_/30 |
| Bibliography\_\_ Needs at least 3 Sources (books, internet etc…)  *(\*\*Remember* [*google.com*](http://google.com)*,* [*bing.com*](http://bing.com)*,* [*yahoo.com*](http://www.yahoo.com)*, Wikipedia.com, and entertainment sites are not official sources. \*\*)* | \_\_\_\_\_10 |
| Proper capitalization and punctuation | \_\_\_\_\_/10 |
| Correct spelling | \_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| Proper and appropriate grammar | \_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| **Total** | **\_\_\_\_\_/50** |

**Presentation Rubric**

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| **Requirement** | **Points** |
| Typed Speech handed in | \_\_\_\_\_/10 |
| Eye Contact with audience | \_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| Clear, memorized speech  1-to-2-minute presentation | \_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| Speech includes movements/theatrics that are relevant to the person and the time period they represent | \_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| Costume is relevant to the person and the time period/profession they represent | \_\_\_\_\_/10 |
| **Total** | **\_\_\_\_\_/50** |