

WISCONSIN BIOGRAPHIES

Purpose: Persuasive Presentation

Task:

Students will analyze a text and video about a historic Wisconsinite, and create a three minute presentation to persuade their peers why the person is important.

Sample Essential Question:

What makes a person important?

Standards:

Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies

- SS.Hist1.b.i Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable effects of historical events, issues, and problems.
- SS.Hist2.c.i Analyze individuals, groups, and events to understand why their contributions are important to historical change and/or continuity.

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts

- W.4.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information
- W.4.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research
- SL.4.4 Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace

Materials:

Animated videos, books/ebooks, and gallery images from WisconsinBiographies.org

Directions:

1. Have each student choose a story from the Wisconsin Biographies series.
2. Instruct each student to watch the animation, and then read the corresponding biography.
3. Tell the students to record a minimum of ten facts about the person.
4. Direct students to create a three minute persuasive presentation, using the Wisconsin Biographies image gallery, in a presentation style of your or their choice. Presentation styles could be a poster, video, digital presentation tool (*such as Prezi, Microsoft PowerPoint, Slidrocket*) skit, commercial, etc. Student should create an argument about why the Wisconsinite is important, and choose relevant facts from their list to use as evidence to support their argument.
5. Have the students share their presentations with the class. After each presentation, ask for volunteers to share their opinion about the three most significant reasons why the Wisconsinite is important. If the students do not feel the person is important based on the presentation, have them provide justifications about why the person is not important.