**Living Memoirs:**

**A Biography Project**

Instead of researching someone and only writing a research paper, we are going to create a living memoir. It is your job to work on all of the following components and create a presentation for it all. Your presentation can be anything – the more creative the more points! (Hint: think of something other than a powerpoint!)

**Mini-projects:**  check out the next page to see the mini-projects for this large project. You will receive grades for the mini-lessons we do in class to introduce parts of the project. Make sure that those assignments for the mini-lesson get turned in for credit. Your mini-projects will not be graded until your presentation in finished. Please make sure you take your time and do great work!

**Presentation due date: April 8th**

**Requirements:**

* Mini-lesson assignments
* 2 book sources
* 3 internet sources
* Notecards
* Citing worksheets
* Peer editing
* Teacher conferences
* Rubric

**Mini-Projects**

* **Diary Entries**:  In order to make the memoir seem authentic, students write 3 diary entries from 3 different times in their life.
* **Friendly Letter & Business Letter**:  Research is vital to writing these letters.  Students need to decide who they are writing to and why while following strict letter writing guidelines.
* **Newspaper Article**:  Students learn the parts of the newspaper, how to write a newspaper article, and how to format it properly.
* **Epitaph**:  Students use their imaginations to create a “gravestone” along with an epitaph that has a quote that represents their person.  Yes, even if they aren’t dead yet, they get an epitaph!  Some students write the date of death in the year 3000 because they don’t want to “jinx” them!
* **Obituary**:  Students hone in on those journalism skills they learned when they were writing their newspaper article to create an obituary that includes a charity their person would have wanted donations to go to.
* **Commemorative Stamp**:  Students have fun designing (and pricing) a commemorative stamp that the US Postal System would be happy to use!
* **My Contributions to the World**:  This is an essay written in first person, as their biography choice, that describes what contributions they have made to the world.   It is a traditional 3-5 paragraph essay.
* **Dear Reader Letter**:  This is a reflective piece written by the student to anyone that reads their project.  It is their chance to explain why they chose their person, some interesting facts that they learned, as well as the time and effort spent and if they would do anything differently if they were to do it again.

**Sequence of Expectations**

**March 4** – What is a biography? Lesson

**March 5** – Choose your person and sign up on the clipboard and review bibliography/notes

**March 6 and 7** - Start your research **BE SURE TO TAKE NOTES!!**

**March 8** – Research (also in library) **TAKE NOTES AND WRITE BIBLIOGRAPHY!**

**March 11**– Introduce “Diary Entries” assignment and use time to work

**March 12** – Work day on “Diary Entries” to revise and proofread. Make sure you have a classmate proofread as well!

**March 13** – Introduce “Friendly and Business Letter” assignment and use time to work

**March 14** – Work day on “Friendly and Business Letter” to revise and proofread. Make sure you have a classmate proofread as well!

**March 15** - Introduce “Newspaper Article” assignment and use time to work

**March 16** - Work day on “Newspaper Article” to revise and proofread. Make sure you have a classmate proofread as well!

**March 19** - Introduce “Epitaph” assignment and use time to work

**March 20** - Work day on “Epitaph” to revise and proofread. Make sure you have a classmate proofread as well!

**March 21** - Introduce “Obituary” assignment and use time to work

**March 22** - Work day on “Obituary” to revise and proofread. Make sure you have a classmate proofread as well!

**March 25** - Introduce “Commemorative Stamp” assignment and use time to work

**April 2** - Introduce “My Contributions to the World” assignment and use time to work

**April 3** - Work day on “My Contributions to the World” to revise and proofread. Make sure you have a classmate proofread as well!

**April 4** - Introduce “Dear Reader Letter” assignment and use time to work

**April 5** – Get presentation put together! You’re almost there!

**April 8** – Presentation day!!