

# 2nd: Rising Up!

## Overview of the Biography Projects *Celebrating Voices of Change*

Your child will choose a person from the past or present whose actions for social justice made changes towards a better world. The focus of this project is to bring in voices from historically underrepresented communities. Your child will create a first person presentation to share with their class on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> during our special biography presentation day.

Tuesday	Read the whole packet WITH A PARENT OR OTHER ADULT Write down any questions you have and bring them to school tomorrow.
Wednesday	Decide on who you will chose as your Voice of Change. Also have a second choice. Bring in the names on Thursday. Re-read packet. Think about resources you might need.
Thursday-Friday	Begin Biography Project: Read your book or find out more information. Take notes as you go - add to your notes when you find out new things. Be sure you are happy with your person - it's early enough to change.
Saturday - Sunday	Feel free to work on your project over the weekend.
Monday - Wednesday	Biography Project: Continue with steps 1-7 on your instruction page. Begin practicing your presentation - make sure it is in the first person.
Thursday	Final practice of your presentation! Tomorrow is the big day. Pack up costumes and props. Optional: help prepare your family's potluck item.
Friday	TODAY IS THE BIG DAY! We'll begin our presentations at 9:10 and end by 11:30. Then, we'll share our potluck lunch. Good Luck and Have fun!

# Rising Up!

## *Celebrating Voices of Change: Special Biography Project*

March 3 - March 20

During these weeks, your child will focus on a person from the past or present whose actions for social justice made changes towards a better world. They will expand their horizons by researching the life, work, and contributions of someone from a historically underrepresented community. Your child will create a first person presentation to share with their class on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> during our special biography presentation day.

### Goals for students during this project:

- to have fun learning & sharing the contributions of notable figures in history
- to experience good non-fiction sources
- to practice organizing information in sequential order around a theme/topic
- to determine what information about a person's life is most compelling (to the student)
- to experience speaking and projecting in front of a group
- to help bring history to life

### **Presentation Notes:**

This is a flexible project, intended to allow for many different learning styles, working styles and presenting styles. Parents, please do not feel that any one way of presenting will be seen as more successful. Kids will bring their own talents, interests, fears and personal styles to this project. Support them, encourage them, let them practice in front of you, and ask good questions for your kids to clarify if anything is confusing.

We have talked, in class, about several ways in which a person could present their work. Ideas include:

- reading your written work
- holding note cards to work as a cue to what you want to say, then improvising your words
- bringing in props, music or pictures to help with what you want to say, then improvise your words
- memorizing a short speech
- and many more presentation styles. Be Creative! The sky's the limit. Have fun! Bring any questions to school....

*CHECK OFF LIST - Celebrating Voices of Change*  
(A three week project)

1. Choose a person to do your biography project on.

If you change your mind about the person you picked, you can choose another one, but please let me know if your subject changes.

2. Carefully read your research information (book and/or internet articles).

3. Take notes about the person's life  
Use the note taking sheet in this packet to write down important information about the subject of your biography. You may want to read your research more than once.

4. Prepare a speech about your biography subject.

Use the notes you took on your biography to help you tell about their life. In your speech, you should talk in the "First Person," which means as if you were that person. For example, you might start out, "Hello, I am Malala Yousafazi. I believe that one child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

5. Read the page "Presentation Styles"  
Decide which style seems best for you. You can also combine styles or make up your own way of giving the speech. Every person is different, and we all have our own way of doing things. See if you can discover what suits you best.

Your Name:

Biography Subject's name:

Biography Presentation  
Note Taking Sheet

Here are some questions to help you better understand your biography. You may want to focus on some of the questions more than others. You may also come up with your own ideas for what is important about this person. Feel free to add your own questions or other information.

\*\* If you write the answers to the questions yourself, it'll be easier to read later (unless your parents print carefully and clearly).

1. Where and when were you born?

Handwriting practice lines for question 1, consisting of four sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.

2. Why are you famous?

Handwriting practice lines for question 2, consisting of four sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.

3. Why did you choose your job?

Handwriting practice lines for question 3, consisting of four sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Biography Response Sheet**

Person's name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Date of death \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

List 4-6 events in this person's life that were important. Please write them in the order that they happened.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

**In summary**

1. Why is this person famous?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did they choose this work?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_