

March Madness: A Biography Battle

For this March Madness assignment, you will be writing about one person. Your purpose is to convince your audience (an academic group: your peers and teacher) that the individual you have selected was the most important American during the 20th Century.

1: Your first objective is to do some research on some people that interest you.

2. After doing some general research, pick one of these people as the subject of a biographical report.

3. Then it will be time to do some serious research. Bring a stack of note-cards to school for the occasional times when you will be able to research in class. On one side, write down direct quotes from your source; on the other side, write down source information (author, article title, magazine name or book name, date of publication, publisher, and page numbers where the information can be found).

4. In mid-March we will go through the writing process. For now, you need to keep in mind that your paper will be 5-7 pages, written in the MLA format (12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and 1 inch margins). Your paper SHOULD NOT attempt to tell this person's entire life story. While you may provide some background, the bulk of your paper should be focused on the impact this person had on the development on the United States.

- NO PRESIDENTS and no Dr. King (Mr. Green has read enough of those papers).
- Be very careful with celebrities and sports heroes. Mr. Green doesn't want to read a stat sheet.
- There will be some benefits to picking an underdog when it comes to the tournament. In other words, if you pick someone more obscure you will be given some bonus points in your heads up competition. Mr. Green would rather here about people who are more often overlooked in history textbooks.
- First come first serve: Once an individual has been selected, they can not be used by another student in the same class
- **Your paper will be due April 14th.**

This may be revised. Stay tuned for additional detail.