

Literary Genre

Fact-Sheet

2009-2010

Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

KGSmith, Instructor

The Greatest Britons

The Research Paper

Although we live in a celebrity-obsessed time, the truth is that our era is very little different in its celebrity-fixation from any other period of history. Gladiators were the rock stars of Rome. Successful English explorers found wealth, position, and adulation when they returned from their journey. Evelyn Nesbit's behavior scandalized turn of the 20th Century New York far worse than anything that Lindsay, Paris, and Nicole have done – yet. History is full of celebrity-watching.

This year's research paper assignment asks you to identify, research, and write about a British historical figure who would have been well-known to the people of his/her era. Who was he/she? What contributions to popular culture of the time did he/she make? Is he/she remembered today?

Here's what you have to do:

1. Early on in the First Semester, the student will select his/her celebrity from a provided list of one hundred *Great Britons*, most of whom should be unknown to the student. This list was made following a poll of 30,000 British citizens in 2002.
2. No student shall replicate a celebrity chosen by another student. Once selected, the student's choice is locked. It may not be modified, traded, or returned.
3. The student will then enter the research phase of the process. Research areas should include each of the following; the *approximate* percentage of the research paper's space devoted to this research area is given for the student's convenience:
 - The celebrity's **life story** (25%)
 - Other celebrity **contemporaries** of the person under study (10%)
 - The **challenge(s)** that most affected the celebrity (15%)
 - **Achievements** credited to the celebrity that made him/her famous in his/her era; awards (15%)
 - The celebrity's significance/contributions/**legacy** to people of the 21st Century (15%)
 - A **personal review** of the celebrity's fame from the student's viewpoint (20%)
4. The student will synthesize the most essential information into easily digestible sections (*Life Story, Contemporaries, Challenges*, etc.) and present it in written fashion -- utilizing proper MLA format and citation style to support his/her information.

5. MLA format and citation style will be discussed in class lectures.
6. Since the process of research paper writing is also under study, students will be required to submit the following items by their assigned due dates:
 - 75 Note Cards (Due: 29 September)
 - Topic Outline (Due: 13 October)
 - Rough Draft (27 October)
7. The student may utilize information from a variety of locations, but must include at least nine (9) sources from which he/she has pulled information. Unless prior permission has been granted in writing, **no more than six** (6) of the student's sources may come from the Internet.
8. A "safe" Internet search engine is found at www.answers.com. Please use this site for all of your Internet searching.
9. A proper Sources Cited page must be included at the end of the student's research paper; a photocopy of each source's title page (or, in the case of Internet cites, the first page of the website) shall also be appended.
10. Photographs may be incorporated in an addendum to amplify information given in the body of the student's paper. The addendum does not count towards the paper's overall length.
11. The Research Paper shall be typed or word processed and written in third person, distant voice; **its body shall be between eight (8) and twelve (12) pages in length.**
12. The project shall be submitted in a plastic presentation folder.

The Research Paper is due: 25 November 2009.

Like any other endeavor, the scope of the project – taken altogether – seems intimidating. Taken piece-by-piece in an organized fashion, however, the research paper will come together smoothly with only a minor disruption to your life. We'll get through this ordeal together, step-by-step...I promise.

Trust me!
Kevin G. Smith
CCHS English Department