

Research Paper – *Biography Project*

Choose a biography of a person that you are interested in learning more about. The person you will be reading about is a famous person from the past or present who has had an impact on society. Make sure you complete the reference sheet each time you write down any information you found in a research source, including the page numbers. This will help you to write your research paper and use parenthetical citations correctly.

Here are the names you may choose from:

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|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Muhammad Ali | 10. Bill Gates | 19. Wright Brothers |
| 2. Maya Angelou | 11. Queen Elizabeth II | 20. Helen Keller |
| 3. Alexander Graham Bell | 12. Albert Einstein | 21. Mother Teresa |
| 4. Marie Curie | 13. Frederick Douglas | 22. Oprah Winfrey |
| 5. Christopher Columbus | 14. Picasso | 23. Harriet Tubman |
| 6. Henry Ford | 15. Thomas Jefferson | 24. Martin Luther King Jr. |
| 7. Walt Disney | 16. Rosa Parks | 25. Dr. Seuss |
| 8. Gandhi | 17. Nelson Mandela | 26. Barack Obama |
| 9. Galileo | 18. Eleanor Roosevelt | |

Research Paper – Thesis Statements



Before you can start to research or write a research paper, you need to settle on a thesis statement. A **thesis statement** is ONE sentence that is the **last sentence of** your **introductory paragraph**. It is the sentence that sums up your entire research paper and it is a statement that you can back up with evidence. When writing a **biography**, your thesis statement should **state a specific idea about that person's life and achievements**.

A good thesis statement **IS**:

- ✓ A **declarative sentence** that **states** clearly and simply the **main point** that you want to make.
 - Teenage gang activities can only be stopped with early education in the public school systems.
- ✓ A sentence that **makes a judgment, evaluation, or a criticism**. This is done by using words like: good, better, best, valuable, worthwhile, desirable, favorable, major, most important, effective, significant, insightful, or should.
 - The major problems that face adolescents today are peer pressure, bullying, and drug and alcohol abuse.
 - **George Washington's strong character, self-reliance, and responsibility towards his family, soldiers, and country allowed him to be an effective leader of his nation.**
- ✓ A statement that you **can consider important**, so that if someone says, "So what?" you can answer the question.