

Biography

Show how a person's life and context shaped their actions

COMMON FORMS

Historical figure, scientist, artist, community leader

TEXT SHAPE

Introduction → selected life stages → achievements or turning points → legacy

FEATURES AND LANGUAGE

Past tense; dates; third person; action and thinking verbs

PLAN AND TEACH IT

Choose events that explain influence or change; do not turn the piece into a list of dates.

tone and register

Respectful and factual; represent uncertainty and sources honestly.

LINKED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Try: Draft from Talk · Interview a Character · Answer in Three Parts

A MODEL TO NOTICE

Bring a short example. Ask who it is for, what it is trying to do and which feature helps it work. Compare it with a less effective draft.

QUICK CHECKLIST

- ☐ The opening makes the purpose clear: Show how a person's life and context shaped their actions.
- ☐ Each part has a clear place and moves the reader towards the purpose.
- ☐ The language features, tone and level of formality fit the reader and situation.

A QUICK CLASSROOM ROUTINE

- 1 NOTICE** Read a model for purpose, shape and audience.
- 2 REHEARSE** Practise a useful sentence or language feature aloud.
- 3 WRITE** Plan, draft and use the guide as a checklist.
- 4 REVIEW** Ask a partner whether the text does its job; revise one feature.
Keep the subject thinking ambitious. Make the language visible, practise it, then fade the support.