



Tips for Writing Your Biography Report

1. Start a biography with an important event or special fact about the person.
2. In the main part of the biography, write about the person's early life first. Then tell about the person's later years.
3. Write an exciting title and introduction that will get a reader's attention.
4. Include a quotation about the subject of your biography. Quotations from others or quotations from the subject of a biography tell the reader more about the person.
5. Many biographies tell about how the person overcame odds and showed determination. What qualities does the biography subject have? Write about these special character qualities.
6. Make sure the biography has a strong conclusion that tells why this person is important in American history.

Remember to start each paragraph with a topic sentence, include 3–4 supporting details, and end the paragraph with a closing sentence.

Example: The secret to Hank Greenberg's success as a ball player was hard work and determination. Even when people said he was too tall, or called him names because he was Jewish, Greenberg always held on to his dream of playing in the big leagues. "I wasn't a natural ball player like Babe Ruth or Willie Mays, but if you practiced the way I did – all day long, day after day – you're bound to get pretty good," Greenberg said. Hank practiced long hours before and after games. He never stopped trying to become a better ballplayer.

Note: The topic sentence is underline and the supporting details follow.

5-Sentence Paragraphs

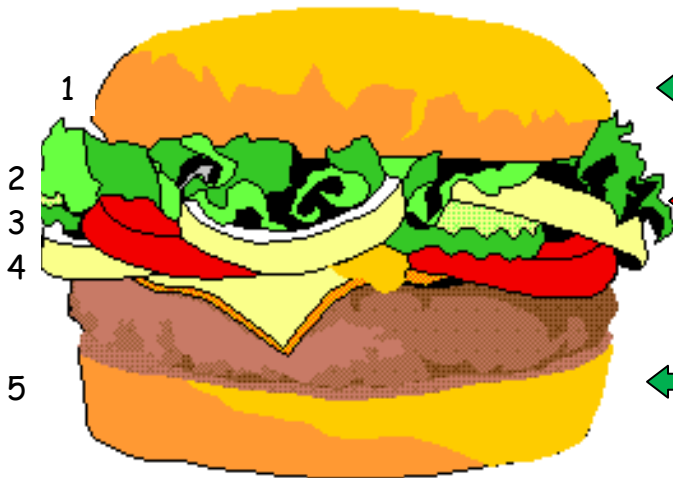
For your Biography Report, you will write an introduction, four, 5-sentence paragraphs, and a conclusion. We will use this model for every paragraph.



Topic Sentence

- ★ Reasons/Detail/Fact
- ★ Reasons/Detail/Fact
- ★ Reasons/Detail/Fact
- ★ Conclusion

Here is another way to model a 5-sentence paragraph.



1
2
3
4
5

← The top bun is your transition topic sentence. It tells the reader exactly what your report is about.

← Next, comes the Reasons, Facts, or supporting Details (3 sentences). They are like the lettuce, tomato, and hamburger patty in the middle.

← Holding everything together is the bottom bun. This is the conclusion. It restates the topic sentence in a different way and sums up the paragraph.

What a great burger!

Transitions



Transition means to “change”.

When you start a **new paragraph**, you change from one idea (or topic) to another.

This is called a transition.

Use these transitions to start Transition Topic Sentences

Next	A good	Another
The next	A better	Another example
First	The best	Another way
The first	Also	Last
First of all	In addition	The final
Second	One	Finally
The second	One other	Most importantly
Third	Along with	

Introductory Paragraph

The very first sentence in the **Introductory Paragraph** is the **Topic Sentence**. This sentence introduces the main idea and tells the reader exactly what the report is about. In the second sentence, write **“the plan”** for your report. This is where you list the key ideas that your report will explain.

Indent		

Biography Project Scoring Rubric



5

ADVANCE

- Has an interesting introductory paragraph
- Contains all elements of a good biography, demonstrates the student's Knowledge about the subject, and engages the reader
- Paragraphs are well developed, containing topic sentences with supporting details
- Contains quotations that tell about the subject
- Has a strong conclusion
- Has almost no errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Completed report is written neatly (or typed) and presented in a folder

4

PROFICIENT

- Has an interesting introductory paragraph
- Contains all elements of a good biography, demonstrates the student's Knowledge about the subject, and engages the reader
- Paragraphs are well developed, containing topic sentences with supporting details
- Contains quotations that tell about the subject
- Has a strong conclusion
- Has few errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Completed report is written neatly (or typed) and presented in a folder

3

BASIC

- Has an introductory paragraph
- Contains all elements of a good biography, and demonstrates fairly good Knowledge about the subject
- Paragraphs are mostly developed, containing topic sentences with supporting details
- May or may not contain a quotation that tells about the subject
- May have a brief or weak conclusion
- May have some errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Completed report may have some weaknesses in its presentation

2

BELOW BASIC

- May have an introductory paragraph, but it is weak (or missing)
- Contains most elements of a good biography, but fails to demonstrate good Knowledge about the subject
- Some paragraphs may not be fully developed, and may not contain topic sentences with supporting details
- May or may not contain a quotation that tells about the subject
- May have a brief or weak conclusion
- May have some errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Completed report may have some weaknesses in its presentation

1

FAR BELOW BASIC

- Biography is missing many essential elements listed above
- Little effort is demonstrated concerning this assignment