

Writing a Biography

1. Note taking	Research
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read books, magazines and use Internet research. Don't just use one source.
	Select a direction for you biography
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A biography will be boring if it just states the facts and it won't be possible to include everything. ▪ Look at all aspects of your subject's life – successes, failures, personal, professional etc and find something that interests you about the person. ▪ Make this aspect of the person's life the focus for your biography. ▪ Work out how other events in his/her life lead up to it or were changed due to this aspect. ▪ Ask questions about the person you are researching to help you determine the angle of your essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Was there a key event in his/her childhood that shaped his/her outlook on life? › What stands out about his/her personality? › What legacy has she/he left behind? › How could you sum up this person in a few words?

2. Planning	Create a plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your biography will need to have a ‘thesis statement’. ▪ A thesis statement describe your point of view and note supporting evidence. ▪ For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Obama’s drive and will succeed came from his supportive family. Throughout his life it was his grandmother who encouraged him to work hard and follow his dreams. ▪ A thesis statement is needed at the beginning of an essay as it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ helps you to better organize and develop your point of view ○ provides your reader with a overview of your point of view. ▪ Work out from your notes what are the key points you want to include about his/her life. ▪ Order them in a structured was eg by date order, or by order of impact etc. ▪ Ensure to end with a conclusion reinforcing your thesis statement.
3. Writing	Start Writing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You'll want to start off with great first sentence, Obama was born in xx and went to school at xxx is not going to interest your readers. ▪ Remember to use descriptive words. ▪ Add insight to your paragraphs and don’t just note down events.
4. Editing	Edit your work
	<p>Use the checklist! See http://planningwithkids.com/2012/06/07/proof-reading-and-editing-checklist-for-kids/</p>