

Name: _____

Informative Speech: A Historical Figure from Your State

An informative speech attempts to increase the audience's knowledge or understanding of a topic through the presentation of information. Your purpose as a speaker is to inform the audience about a topic in which they may not have prior knowledge.

Your assignment is to present a 2-3 minute speech about a person of historical significance from your state that had a positive impact in history. **Remember: You are speaking about the person as if YOU are that person (first person - "I, Me, My"). You are also dressing up as this person when you present.** Your teacher must first approve the person. Topics of thought: A leader/famous person, civil rights leaders, etc.

Choose the best way to organize your speech. You will probably want to choose a Chronological Pattern since you will be informing the class about this person's life. You must have an Introduction w/thesis and attention getter, a Body with at least three main points including supporting information and details, and a Conclusion that includes a brief summary of main points and an attention getter to close.

Some Ideas to Think About:

CHILDHOOD

- When was your person born?
- Where was your person born?
- Where did your person grow up?
- Did anything eventful occur during your person's childhood?
- Did your person go to school?
- What type of home life did your person have?

FAMILY

- Who were your person's parents?
- Did your person grow up with his/her parents?
- Did your person have any brothers or sisters?
- Are there any other family members that influenced your person?
- What type of relationship did your person have with his/her family?
- Was your person married? If yes, did the spouse play a major role in their life?

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Did your person have any particular strength?
- Did your person do anything that changed the course of history or influenced it in any way?
- Did your person win any awards?
- Did your person do anything great that other people talked about? For example, write a book?

PROBLEMS / OBSTACLES

- Did your person face any personal challenges during his/her life?
- How did your person respond to these problems?
- Was anyone else involved in these issues?
- Was there an end to the problems that your person faced?

END OF LIFE

- How and when did this person die or are they still alive?

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- In what ways was the life remarkable, despicable, and admirable?
- What human qualities were most influential in shaping the way this person lived and influenced his or her times?
- Which quality or trait proved most troubling and difficult?
- Which quality or trait was most beneficial?
- Did this person make any major mistakes or bad decisions? If so, what were they?
- What do you think it means to be a hero? Was your person a "hero?" Why? Why not? How is a hero different from a celebrity? Or was your person someone that history looks down upon.

My Historical Person is _____

and my speech is due on _____.

PARENTS: Students should do most of the research and work necessary to complete this speech, but families are welcome to help and provide support.