

Biography/Autobiography Paper

A biography (from the Greek words bios meaning “life”, and graphenein “meaning to write” is a description of someone’s life, usually published in the form of a book or essay, or in some other form, such as a film.

An autobiography (auto meaning “self”, giving self biography) is a biography by the same person it is about. A biography is more than a list of impersonal facts (education, work, relationships and death), it also portrays the subject’s experiences of those events. A biography presents the subject’s story, highlighting various aspects of his or her life, including intimate details of experiences, and may include an analysis of the subject’s personality.

A work is biographical if it covers all of a person’s life.

Getting started:

First, get to know the person you are writing about. As you’re reading about your person take notes on key information, such as when vital information took place.

The Structure of the Paper:

Start your report with an introductory paragraph that state the main ideas that you will be writing about. The write at least six to eight paragraphs that clearly describe your person. Each paragraph should cover one topic. End the report with a closing paragraph that summarizes what you wrote and learned.

Finally, cite your references. Proofread your report for errors before you hand it in—do not hand in a rough draft.

Citing Your References:

When you write your **Biography/Autobiograph**, list all of your references. Formats for each type of publication follows (there are different formats for different media):

- **Website:** Authors if appropriate. *The Title of Site or web page*. URL of site, date of publication (earliest copyright year listed).
- **Book:** Authors. *Title of book*. Edition Location of publishers. Name of Publisher, year of publication.
- **Encyclopedia:** *Title of encyclopedia*, volume of encyclopedia used. Location of publisher. Name of Publisher, year of publication, pages where the article is located.
- **Magazine or Journal:** Authors. “*Title of article.*” *Name of magazine*, Volume.issue (date): pages where the article is located.

Due Date: Feb 5

The following is a Rubric for assessing each part of your Biography/Autobiography:

Due _____

	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Excellent 4	Score
Introduction	Disorganized, no information on what is to come.	Gives too little information.	Summaries report.	Concise, well-written introduction	
Research Part I (describe the person important events, date, vehicles used.)	Does not cover all appropriate topics	Covers some of the appropriate topics.	Covers most of the appropriate topics.	Covers all of the appropriate topics well. Also includes other interesting facts.	
Research Part II Describe the person's accomplishments, legacies, failures and other important facts.	Does not cover all appropriate topics	Covers some of the appropriate topics.	Covers most of the appropriate topics.	Covers all of the appropriate topics well. Also includes other interesting facts.	
Spelling/ Grammar	Many spelling and grammatical errors	A few errors in spelling or grammar.	Only one or two errors in either spelling or grammar.	Spelling and grammar perfect.	
Presentation	Illegible, messy	Almost illegible	Legible writing, accompanying illustrations.	Well organized presentation, typed or written using a word processor, accompanying illustrations.	
References	No References	A single reference, incomplete citations.	Several references with incomplete citations.	Many references, listed in appropriate format with many citations.	