

History Now Project: American Histories, circa 2019

I hope you have noticed that each chapter of our textbook opens with an **AMERICAN HISTORIES** introductory section: a pair of contrasting biographies, featuring two people (usually “ordinary,” not necessarily famous people) with very different life experiences, who each represent their time period in some important way and help showcase American diversity.

Imagine that we have been assigned to start a new Chapter 30 for this textbook, featuring US history since 2015. I want you to write the “American Histories” opening section by selecting two people who represent our current historical moment with contrasting life experiences. Try to make them as different from each other and represent as wide a range of American diversity, as you possibly can. Both of the people need to have been alive at some point during 2015-2019. It may help you to go back and study some of the sections in previous chapters to see some good examples and to get a feel for the appropriate writing style.

Some people are off limits: no presidents or former presidents.

Essay Formatting

- 600 Words (or within 20 words of that limit, plus or minus)
- Only write about two actual, specific, individual, named people (i.e. cannot be a fictional person, and don't use broad categories of people like “Twitter users” or “Antifa”)
- Use reliable sources about these people to craft their biographies (see citation note on the reverse side about Wikipedia if you absolutely have to use it)
- Keep the biographies of the two people about the same length as each other, strive for balance
- Use one paragraph either in the middle or at the end, to link, connect, compare and/or contrast your people
- Attach a source list, or use footnotes to cite sources
- Notes / sources are not part of word count
- Include the word count at the beginning of your essay
- You do not need to include photographs of the people

Deadlines and Grading

- **Due Monday May 6 by 9:30 am**, submitted to Blackboard
- Submit file as a Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF file
- Worth 10 points
- See grading rubric on the back

Essay Rubric

	Exemplary Achievement (8-10 points)	Meets Assignment Guidelines (5-7 points)	Poor Quality (0-4 points)
<i>Subject</i>	Showcases two well-chosen, well-written biographies. Juxtaposes interesting Americans with surprising originality, creativity, or contrast.	Showcases two biographies, though the writing may have some issues of clarity or organization. Features two predictable or obvious choices.	Essay does not meet assignment criteria on one or more dimensions.
<i>Research and Citation</i>	Draws on high-quality sources and shows strong research skills, going beyond simple Google search results. Citations are correctly formatted with full bibliographic information.	Draws on reliable sources, which may include trustworthy internet search results. Citations may be partial or missing some information.	Only uses Wikipedia, or fails to cite sources. Citations, if present, consist only of URL links.
<i>Quality of Writing & Professional Polish</i>	Publish-ready!	Would need additional proofreading or writing revision before publishing	Writing has serious problems that impede reader's understanding

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