

Writing About An Influential Person in Your Life

Subject _____ Class _____ Date _____

Assignment Summary

Every year, *Time* magazine publishes a list of the 100 most influential people in the world. These are people who are recognized for changing the world through their words and actions, and it is considered an honor to be on the list. As a class, we would like to compile our own list of influential people to honor. Think about a person whom you know well and who has had a positive effect on your life. Write an essay that describes the most influential person in your life and explain why or how that person has influenced you.

Writer's Purpose	You are writing to describe someone who is special to you and who has made a difference in your life. Your job is to help others clearly understand how important this person is to you.
Writer's Role	You are writing as yourself.
Audience	You are writing for your classmates, who will want to learn more about how the person you chose has influenced you.
Form	You will write a multi-paragraph essay that describes your "influential person" and explains how that person has influenced you.
Focus Correction Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Hook</u> (Start with a "wow" statement about your person) • <u>3 reasons</u> (with personal examples) • <u>Variety of sentence beginnings</u>
Procedure	<p>To help you develop your essay, we will do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type One Writing: Make a list of 3 or more people who have influenced you. Think about family members, teachers, coaches, or friends. • Choose one person from the list to write about. • After you have chosen your person, draw a line below what you have written. Below the line, add 5 or more words or phrases that explain why you chose this person. • Circle your 3 strongest reasons. • Use a T-chart to list the 3 reasons you selected and map out specific examples for each. Think of things like how your

person acts, activities you do together, and how this person inspires you or makes your life better.

- Together, we will look at a [sample of another student's essay](#) about an influential person in her life.
 - We will discuss how the writer organized her ideas using several paragraphs and used examples to support each reason she identified.
 - We will also circle the first two words of every sentence and look for ways to add variety to her sentence beginnings (by combining sentences, using pronouns, or adding introductory phrases or transition words).
 - Finally, we will look at examples of hooks and help this writer with composing a hook to introduce her person (such as starting the essay with a quote, an unusual detail, or an action taken that exemplifies her chosen person).
- Draft your profile of your influential person.
- Read your writing out loud in a one-foot voice, and make any changes you think will improve your essay.
- Show me that you have followed each of the FCAs:
 - Underline your hook.
 - Box and number your reasons and make sure you have three.
 - Circle the first two words of every sentence. If you have two sentence beginnings in a row that are the same, change one of them.
- Submit your writing so I can learn more about your influential person and provide feedback on each FCA.