

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 role model in your life, someone whom you respect, admire, and try to imitate. Write an essay in which you explain your personal role model and the impact they have had on your life and who you are (or try to be).

Writer's Purpose	You are writing to describe someone who has influenced you and who has made a difference in your life. Your job is to help others, who may not know the person you chose, understand the impact this person has had on your life.
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 choose 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>Introductory paragraph with hook</u> • <u>2-3 reasons with personal examples</u> • <u>Logical progression of ideas with smooth transitions</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 2-3 strongest reasons. • Use a T-chart to list the 2-3 reasons you selected and map out specific examples for each. Think of things like how your

person acts, things you do together, and how this person makes your life better.

- Before writing, we will explore samples of essays from *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People of 2021," such as [this one](#) about American gymnast Suni Lee. We will highlight how the author used crisp, concise language to paint a picture of Lee's ability to inspire and how essay ideas are smoothly connected to build a common theme without sounding formulaic.
- 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 specific examples to support each reason she identified.
 - We will also explore strategies that will help this writer develop her ideas less formulaically and with a smoother flow.
 - Finally, we will look at examples of hooks and help this writer to compose a hook to introduce her person (such as starting with a quote, unusual detail, or action that reflects her person).
- Draft your profile.
- Read your writing out loud in a one-foot voice, and make any changes you think will improve it.
- Show me that you have followed each of the FCAs. Underline the hook in your introductory paragraph. Box and number your reasons and highlight personal examples. Circle transitions that connect ideas.
- Submit your writing so I can learn more about your influential person and provide feedback on each FCA.