

Biographies

Biographies are the true story of a person's life, written by someone other than the subject. (If you write your own biography, it's called an autobiography.) People who've made an important difference in the world or contributed to society in a significant way are usually chosen as subjects. However, having a quick smile or a great sense of humor, or even a secret pet dragon called Herman are all totally great ways to influence the world, too. Which means anyone can be the subject of a biography. 😊

Try writing a biography about anyone you choose. (Or choose yourself and try an autobiography.) Your subject could be someone famous, or it could be your neighbor. Your subject doesn't even have to be human. You could write about your dog, or your aunt Dorinda's goldfish everyone calls Peaches. As long as you think the subject has made a worthwhile contribution, they are worthy of a biography.

Once you have a subject in mind, **consider the form of your biography**. The most common is probably chronological order—writing about the subject's life from beginning to end. But if that doesn't float your boat, consider structuring your biography as a newspaper article or a comic strip. Or try an interview format, like I used when I wrote about Amelia Earhart and Harriet Tubman.

Newspaper article: Report the newsworthy, breaking scoop about your subject, remembering to concentrate on the who, what, when, where, and why of the story.

Comic Strip: Sketch your subject's life using spreads, splash panels, speech bubbles, and captions to show readers what makes your subject important to you, and the world.

Interview: Think of questions you'd like to ask your subject. If possible, conduct a real interview. If not, imagine you're face to face doing a real interview. Record how they answer, or how you think they'd answer.

Good luck, and have fun! And if you want, [send me](#) your biographies.