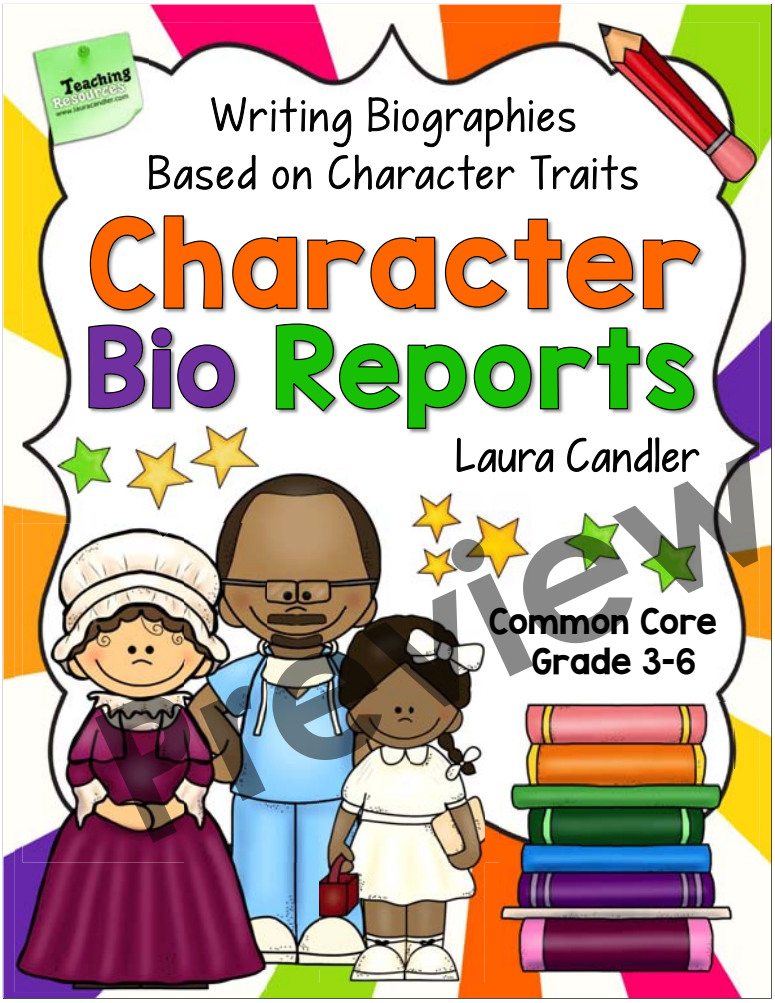

Character Bio Reports

Created by Laura Candler
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Having students write Character Bio Reports is an easy and effective method of teaching them how to write an original report on a famous person or character. Instead of copying facts and rewording them to write a report, students must research the person's accomplishments and use that information to write a short character analysis. Throughout this process, students deepen their understanding of character traits. This assignment is so flexible that it can be used several times during the year by focusing on different characters. In this teaching packet, you'll find a basic Character Bio Report assignment along with six different variations of this activity. This product also includes an editable PowerPoint file with the basic assignment directions and an editable version of the grading rubric.

Common Core English Language Arts Standards
The Character Bio Reports activity addresses Common Core ELA Standards for grades 3 through 6. Conducting the research aspect of the assignment meets several of the Informational Text standards for those grade levels. Writing the report addresses multiple writing standards, especially anchor standards 2 and 7, which state respectively, "Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly," and "Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic." See pages 20 and 21 for a complete list of the standards met by this activity.

Tips for Getting Started
The Character Bio Report lesson will require several days to a week to complete depending on how much class time you devote to the project. This packet contains a variety of direction pages and graphic organizers, but it's not necessary to print them all. The only handout that your students must have is a copy of the directions that you select for this particular assignment. All other materials can be displayed on a projector or recreated with a foldable or homemade graphic organizer. Start by reading the lesson suggestions on the next page which will help you plan this research and writing activity.

Customizing the Directions and Rubric
To create your own custom directions and/or rubric for scoring the reports, open and edit the PowerPoint file located in the product zip file. The font used in both documents is Century Gothic, but you can change it if you prefer a different font or don't have that one installed.

Table of Contents

Lesson Suggestions 3
Topic Approval Slips 4
Research Page 5
Character Traits List 6
Graphic Organizers 7
Character Bio Rocket 10
Scoring Rubric 11
Lined Paper 12

Bio Report Variations
Basic Report 13
Presidents 14
Scientists/Inventors 15
Historical Figures 16
African Americans 17
Book Characters 18
Native Country Bios 19

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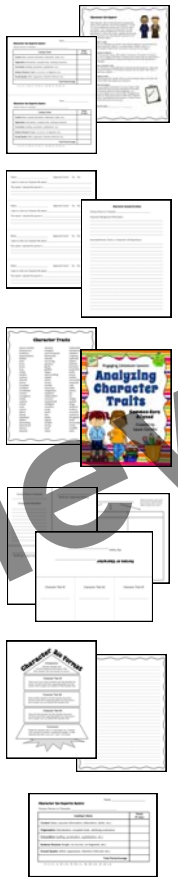
Character Bio Reports Lesson Suggestions

1. **Introducing the Lesson**
Choose the focus of your assignment. You can use the basic Character Bio directions and leave it completely open-ended, or you can use one of the direction pages at the end of this packet. Write your assignment deadline on the line at the bottom of the page, and print a copy for each student. If you plan to use the Character Bio Rubric to score their reports, display a copy of the rubric and explain it to your students.
2. **Brainstorming Topics and Selecting a Character**
After you present the assignment, provide class time to brainstorm characters for their writing topic. Then ask students to fill out a Topic Approval slip with the name of the character they want to research and submit it to you for approval.
3. **Researching**
Give students a copy of the Research Notes page, or have them take notes on their own paper. Remind them to record their sources if you plan to have them report their sources later. If possible, arrange for them to have class time or computer time for research.
4. **Choosing Character Traits**
Display the Character Traits list and discuss the meanings of unfamiliar words. Ask your students to select three character traits that best describe their person. Ask them to list details from their research notes to support their chosen character traits. In some cases they may need to conduct a little more research to find additional supporting details. (Note: During the lesson, you might realize that your students need more work with character traits. If so, you may want to use the lessons in **Analyzing Character Traits** before continuing the Character Bio Reports lesson.)
5. **Organizing Ideas**
Teach your students how to organize their ideas before writing their reports. Choose the graphic organizer or foldable that you feel is most appropriate for the lesson and introduce it to your students. They should write one character trait at the top of each section or on the foldable flaps and list supporting details underneath.
6. **Writing the Report**
When students are ready to write, introduce them to the 5-paragraph essay format shown on the Character Bio Rocket. Explain the kinds of information and details they need to include in each part of their report. After they write their rough drafts, display the Character Bio Rocket again and ask them to review their papers to see if they have included all necessary information. If desired, provide time for writing conferences as well as time to write the final drafts. A lined-paper template with a border is provided, but you may prefer to have your students type their reports or write them on their own paper.
7. **Assessing and/or Grading the Report**
If you'd like to use the scoring rubric on page 11, assess each aspect of the paper by assigning it a value from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Total the points and use the scale under the rubric to assign a letter grade. You can customize this rubric using the editable PowerPoint file provided.



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Name _____ Approval Given? Yes No

I plan to write my Character Bio about _____.

The reason I selected this person is _____

_____

_____

Name _____ Approval Given? Yes No

I plan to write my Character Bio about _____.

The reason I selected this person is _____

_____

_____

Name _____ Approval Given? Yes No

I plan to write my Character Bio about _____.

The reason I selected this person is _____

_____

_____

Name _____ Approval Given? Yes No

I plan to write my Character Bio about _____.

The reason I selected this person is _____

_____

_____

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Preview Version

Character Research Notes

Famous Person or Character _____

Important Background Information:

Accomplishments, Events, or Important Life Experiences:

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Character Traits

absent-minded	dynamic	methodical
adventurous	energetic	mischievous
ambitious	even-tempered	obedient
argumentative	flamboyant	outgoing
bashful	friendly	optimistic
bold	fun-loving	patient
bossy	generous	patriotic
brave	gentle	persistent
busy	gullible	pessimistic
caring	happy	polite
careless	hard-working	proud
cautious	helpful	reckless
cheerful	heroic	resourceful
clumsy	honest	respectful
conceited	humble	rude
confident	humorous	selfish
considerate	imaginative	serious
content	impatient	shy
courageous	independent	sly
cranky	innocent	sneaky
creative	inspirational	spoiled
critical	intelligent	stingy
cruel	inventive	stubborn
curious	jovial	studious
dainty	joyful	successful
daring	lazy	suspicious
dedicated	leader	thoughtful
defiant	logical	timid
demanding	lovable	trustworthy
determined	loving	unruly
devious	loyal	unselfish
dreamer	messy	witty

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Famous Person or Character

_____

Background Information

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Trait ↑ and Supporting Details ↓

_____

Trait ↑ and Supporting Details ↓

_____

Trait ↑ and Supporting Details ↓

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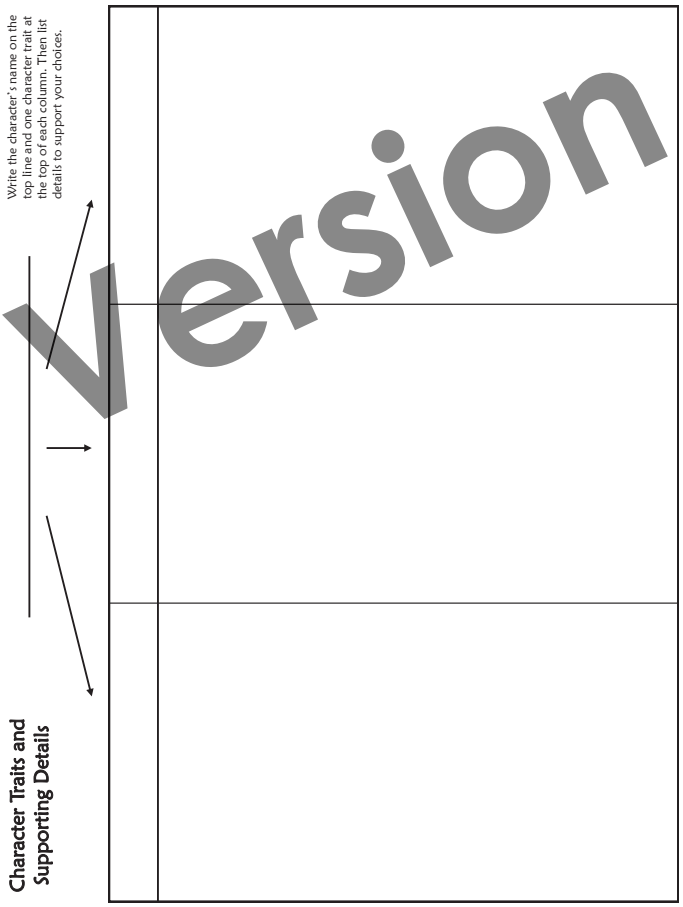
Write the character's name on the top line and one character trait at the top of each column. Then list details to support your choices.



Character Traits and Supporting Details

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Person or Character

My Name _____

Character Trait 3

Character Trait 2

Character Trait 1

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Character Bio Format

Introduction

Introduce character and provide background information. State three character traits that describe this person.

Character Trait #1

Name one of your chosen character traits that describes the person. Provide at least three supporting details from that person's life to explain your selection of that character trait.

Character Trait #2

Name another character trait that describes the person. Provide at least three supporting details from that person's life to explain why you selected that character trait.

Character Trait #3

Name the final character trait that describes the person. Provide at least three supporting details from that person's life to explain why you selected that character trait.

Conclusion

Restate the character traits in a memorable way. Conclude with a personal connection, inspirational thought, or other statement that allows your own "voice" to be heard.

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Name _____

Character Bio Report Rubric

Famous Person or Character _____

Grading Criteria	Points (5 max)
Content (ideas, accurate information, elaboration, clarity, etc.)	
Organization (introduction, complete body, satisfying conclusion)	
Conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.)	
Sentence Structure (length, no run-ons, no fragments, etc.)	
Overall Quality (effort, appearance, directions followed, etc.)	
Total Points/Average	

0 - 5 = F, 6 - 10 = D, 11 - 15 = C, 16 - 20 = B, 21 - 25 = A

Name _____

Character Bio Report Rubric

Famous Person or Character _____

Grading Criteria	Points (5 max)
Content (ideas, accurate information, elaboration, clarity, etc.)	
Organization (introduction, complete body, satisfying conclusion)	
Conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.)	
Sentence Structure (length, no run-ons, no fragments, etc.)	
Overall Quality (effort, appearance, directions followed, etc.)	
Total Points/Average	

0 - 5 = F, 6 - 10 = D, 11 - 15 = C, 16 - 20 = B, 21 - 25 = A

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Preview Version

Character Bio Report

What character traits are demonstrated by people who excel in their professions and achieve greatness? To find out, you'll research one person, past or present, whom you admire. You'll discover facts about his or her life experiences and accomplishments, and you'll use this information to write a short report organized according to that person's character traits. Follow the steps below to write a report that rocks!

Step 1: Select a Topic
Brainstorm a list of people you admire. They may be living now or have lived long ago. Consider presidents, inventors, civil rights leaders, teachers, writers, or community members. Then choose one person as the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Research Character
Research your character using a wide variety of resources. If the person is someone you know, try to arrange an interview. Continue your research until you have listed at least 8 to 10 accomplishments or important life experiences that demonstrate that person's character.

Step 3: Select Character Traits
Think about the person's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Refer to the Character Traits list and select three traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas
Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits, and under each one record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report
Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction that gives brief biographical information. The body should include at least three paragraphs, one paragraph per character trait. Conclude with a paragraph that explains why you selected this person or offers some reflection on the person's accomplishments and impact on society. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Assignment Due Date _____

President Bio Report

For this assignment, you'll be researching one president and writing a short report. First, you'll choose a President, past or present, whom you admire. Then you'll research facts about his or her life experiences and accomplishments. Then you'll use what you learned to write a short report organized according to that person's character traits. Follow the steps below to write a report that rocks!

Step 1: Select a President
Brainstorm a list of Presidents you admire. They may be living now or have lived long ago. You may have to do a little research before you can make your selection. Then choose one President as the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Research President
Research this President using a variety of resources. Continue your research until you have listed at least 8 to 10 accomplishments or important life experiences that demonstrate that person's character. You'll also need to record basic background information about that President.

Step 3: Select Character Traits
Think about the President's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Refer to the Character Traits list and select three traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas
Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits, and under each one record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report
Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction followed by at least one paragraph on each of the three character traits you selected. Show that the President you selected demonstrates each character trait. Conclude with a paragraph that explains why you selected this President or a reflection on his or her accomplishments. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Assignment Due Date _____

Scientist/Inventor Bio Report

Over the past centuries, scientists and inventors have been responsible for huge changes in our society. Their accomplishments, discoveries, and inventions have revolutionized the way we communicate, live, travel, and store information. What character traits are demonstrated by people whose lives have such tremendous impact? To find out, you'll research one scientist or inventor, past or present, whom you admire. You'll discover facts about his or her life experiences and accomplishments, and you'll use this information to write a short report organized according to that person's character traits. Follow the steps below to write a report that rocks!

Step 1: Select a Topic
Brainstorm a list of scientists or inventors, past or present, that you admire. You may want to think of an invention or discovery important to you and write about the inventor or scientist responsible for that discovery.

Step 2: Research Scientist or Inventor
Research your scientist or inventor using a wide variety of resources. You'll need a few basic facts about the invention or discovery, but you should focus your research on the person behind the discovery. If the person is someone you know, try to arrange an interview. Continue your research until you list at least 8 to 10 accomplishments or important life experiences that demonstrate that person's character.

Step 3: Select Character Traits
Think about the person's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Refer to the Character Traits list and select three traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas
Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits, and under each one record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report
Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction that includes background details about the invention or discovery. The body of your paper should include at least three paragraphs, one paragraph for each character trait. Conclude with a paragraph that explains why you chose this scientist or a reflection on the person's accomplishments. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Assignment Due Date _____

Historical Figure Bio Report

What character traits were demonstrated by people who achieved greatness in the past? To find out, you'll research one historical figure whom you admire. You'll discover facts about his or her life experiences and accomplishments, and you'll use this information to write a short report organized according to that person's character traits. Follow the steps below to write a report that rocks!

Step 1: Select a Topic
Brainstorm a list of historical figures that you admire. You may need to do some research before you are able to make your selection. Then choose one person to use as the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Research Historical Figure
Research your historical figure using a wide variety of resources. Continue your research until you have listed at least 8 to 10 accomplishments or important life experiences that demonstrate that person's character.

Step 3: Select Character Traits
Think about the person's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Refer to the Character Traits list and select three traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas
Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits, and under each one record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report
Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction that includes background information about the major contributions of this historical figure. The body of your paper should include at least three paragraphs, one paragraph per character trait. Conclude with a brief paragraph that explains why you chose this historical figure or a reflection on the person's accomplishments. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Assignment Due Date _____

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African American Bio Report

For this assignment, you'll write a report about an African American (past or present) who is recognized for his or her accomplishments and contributions. You'll choose a person whom you admire and who had a positive impact on others. Next, you'll conduct research to discover facts about the person's life experiences and accomplishments, and you'll use this information to write a short report organized according to that person's character traits. Follow the steps below to write a report that rocks!

Step 1: Select an African American
Brainstorm a list of African Americans you admire. They may be living now or have lived long ago. You may have to do a little research before you can make your selection. Then choose one person who will be the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Research and Record Facts
Research this person using a variety of resources. Begin by recording background facts and information about your person. Continue your research until you have listed at least 8 to 10 of the person's accomplishments or important life experiences.

Step 3: Select Character Traits
Think about the person's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Select **three** traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas
Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits on a 3-part graphic organizer, and under each trait record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report
Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction followed by at least three paragraphs, one paragraph per character trait. Conclude with a brief paragraph that offers a personal connection or a reflection on that person's accomplishments and/or impact on others' lives. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Assignment Due Date _____

Native Country Character Bio Reports

Research an important person from your native country. The person may be still living or someone from the past. How has this person positively impacted your country or the country where he or she now lives? What character traits describe this individual? To find out, you'll be researching this person and writing a short report in the form of a character analysis. First, you'll research facts about his or her life experiences and accomplishments. Then you'll use this information to write a short report organized according to his or her character traits. Follow the steps below to write a report that rocks!

Step 1: Select a Famous Person
Brainstorm a list of important people from your country. You may need to do some research before you are able to make your selection. Then choose one person to use as the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Research Historical Figure
Research this person using a wide variety of resources. Continue your research until you have listed at least 8 to 10 accomplishments or important life experiences that demonstrate that person's character.

Step 3: Select Character Traits
Think about the person's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Refer to the Character Traits list and select three traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas
Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits, and under each one record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report
Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction that includes background information about the major contributions of this person. The body of your paper should include at least three paragraphs, one paragraph per character trait. Conclude with a brief paragraph that explains why you chose this historical figure or a reflection on the person's accomplishments. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Assignment Due Date _____

Book Character Bio Report

Think of a book character whom you admire or with whom you can identify. What traits does this character demonstrate? To find out, you'll gather details about that character's words and actions, and you'll use this information to write a short report organized according to that character's traits. Follow the steps below to write a report that rocks!

Step 1: Select a Topic
Brainstorm a list of book characters you admire. Start by thinking of your favorite books and the important characters in those books. Then choose one character as the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Identify Character Traits
Based on your reading, what character traits describe this person? Refer to the Character Traits list and select three traits that you'll be able to justify with evidence from the text.

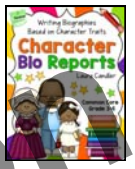
Step 3: Find Supporting Details
Find a copy of the book where you were first introduced to this character. Scan the text to find clues about the character's traits. Look for the character's actions, his or her words, and the descriptions given by the author. Continue scanning and recording ideas until you have listed at least 8 to 10 details that demonstrate that person's character.

Step 4: Organize Ideas
Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits, and under each one record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report
Write an essay using the information you gathered. Start with an introduction in which you identify the book's title and author as well as the character you have chosen to analyze. Include a one-sentence summary of the book's plot. In the body of your paper, write at least three more paragraphs, one paragraph about each trait. Conclude with a brief paragraph explaining why you chose to write about this person and what you can learn from the character. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Assignment Due Date _____

Common Core Aligned
3rd and 4th Grade Writing Standards



The lessons in **Character Bio Reports** are aligned with these standards:

3rd Grade

W.3.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
- Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
- Provide a concluding statement or section.

W.3.4. With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

W.3.5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.

W.3.7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

4th Grade

W.4.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., another, for example, also, because).
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

W.4.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

W.4.5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.

W.4.7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

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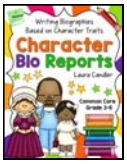
Common Core Aligned
5th and 6th Grade Writing Standards



The lessons in **Character Bio Reports** are aligned with these standards:

5th Grade

W.5.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

- Introduce a topic clearly, provide a general observation and focus, and group related information logically; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- Link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., in contrast, especially).
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

W.5.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

W.5.5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

W.5.7. Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

W.5.8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

6th Grade

W.6.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

- Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.

W.6.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

W.6.5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach

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