Night of the Notables
Requirements

For this project you will research the life of an individual who has made a positive contribution to the world. Your goal is to write and deliver a ten minute speech in which you share with your classmates, teacher, and parents, your notable person’s life and accomplishments.

Step 1 - Choose a notable person and have your choice cleared by your teacher.

Step 2 - Begin reading either a biography or an autobiography. You need an in-depth knowledge of your notable person and this is best done through reading a great deal about his/her life.

Step 3 - Begin gathering research materials. You must have at least 3 resources and complete a bibliography and source cards. One resource will be your biography or autobiography. Others may include: the encyclopedia (on line or in print - you can use more than one for research, but only one for credit), reference books from the Pioneer library, periodicals, online sources, videos, etc.

Step 4 - In the library, begin note taking. You must create source cards for each source you use. I suggest making a new source card each time you use a new resource.
   Take your notes on 3 by 5 index cards. They must follow the correct form. Your notes must be paraphrased, not copied.

You should write in only words or phrases. That way you won’t be copying straight from a book or internet site.
SEE THE EXAMPLE PROVIDED!

Your teacher will model the correct format and process for note taking.

   Center your notes around these five topics:

1. Background (“pre-notability”- childhood, family, education, etc.)

2. Historical context (what was going on in the world at the time of your notable’s life)

3. Influences (circumstances, people)

4. Obstacles (tough times, adversity)

5. Accomplishments (what your notable person did to make the world a better place) This should be the bulk of your speech.
6. Impact of accomplishments (How did your notable person’s accomplishments change the world for the better)

7. Other (specific to your person)

Step 5 - For each day we are in the library, write in your research journal. See the attached directions.

Step 6 - Locate a picture of your notable person to determine your costume and prop. There are many costume books in the library you can use for reference. Begin thinking about both of these items.

Step 7 - Sort your notes according to categories, and organize your notecards into a logical order for your speech. Most people follow the chronological order of their person’s life.

Step 8 - Write your speech outline.

Step 9 - Write your formal speech script. Follow the writing process. Write in first person. “I am Queen Elizabeth…”

Step 10 - Convert your speech script back to a basic outline on a 5 by 8 index card that your teacher will provide for you to use as a prompt during your speech.

Step 11 - Practice your speech EVERY DAY and prepare your costume.

Step 12 - Impress your friends and parents with your natural speaking ability and your amazing knowledge of your notable person!