**English First Peoples 11/12 Author Biography Assignment**

In this assignment you will be researching the life of a well-known first nations author and writing a biography about that person. A biography is simply the story of a life. Shorter biographies tell the basic facts of someone's life and importance. Biographies analyze and interpret the events in a person's life. They try to find connections, explain the meaning of unexpected actions or mysteries, and make arguments about the significance of the person's accomplishments or life activities. Most biographies are written in chronological (time) order. The first part of the assignment will be to research information about your chosen author in order to write your biography. Secondly you will need to read some sample author biographies to see examples of what they should look like. Lastly, you will use the information you have researched to write your biography.

**Part 1: Research**

1. Pick a well-known first nations author. Some possible choices are as follows:
   1. Joseph Boyden
   2. Thomas King
   3. Eden Robinson
   4. Lee Maracle
   5. Jeanette Armstrong
   6. Drew Hayden Taylor
   7. Richard Wagamese
   8. Sherman Alexie
   9. Daniel Heath
   10. Pauline Johnson
   11. Daniel David Moses
   12. Chief Dan George
   13. Graham Greene
   14. Richard Van Camp
   15. Maria Campbell
   16. Monique Hope Gray
   17. Chief Bev Sellars
   18. Tomson Highway
   19. John Bemrose
   20. Beatrice Culleton
   21. Robert Arthur Alexie
2. Answer the basic research questions below about your author by using the internet and/or other sources to find the information. (you may not be able to find out the answers to all of these questions but do the best you can) \*Note- Some questions are ones you can find the answers to, while others are ones you have to think about and answer based on your research.
   1. When were they born?
   2. What type of schooling did they have?
   3. Are they married?
   4. Do they have children?
   5. What do you know about their family? (parents/siblings)
   6. What are their major achievements?
   7. Have they won any awards?
   8. What books have they written?
   9. Have they had any failures?
   10. Have they had to face any obstacles in their lives?
   11. Where do they live?
   12. When did they die? (or are they still alive?)
   13. Do they have any heroes or role models?
   14. What influences them in their writing?
   15. What type of things do they write about?
   16. Why is their writing important?
   17. What are their favourite books?
   18. Do they have a favourite author?
   19. Do they have any hobbies?
   20. What makes them special or interesting?
   21. What adjectives would you use to describe this person? Why?
   22. What events have shaped this person’s life?
   23. Why is this person’s writing important to first nations literature?
   24. Why is this person’s writing important to first nations culture?
3. In addition collect information using the following categories that were not covered by the basic research questions that would help us know more about the author that you feel should be included.
4. Keep track of the sources of your information for your works consulted page.

**Part 2: Reading example biographies**

1. Read at least 2 of the following author biographies as examples. You can look at [www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com) for examples or search for examples on the internet.
2. For each biography you read write a short paragraph explaining why each author was important and the impact they had on the world.

**Part 3: Writing the Biography**

1. Using your research questions as a guide, write a biography of your author using the following headings as guidelines. (You can add headings if you wish. If you wish to change headings you must talk to me.)
   1. Early life
   2. Early writing
   3. Fame/Accomplishments
   4. Interesting facts/characteristics
   5. Importance to first nations literature and culture
   6. Later years
2. Once your rough copy of your biography is complete have another person read it over and make suggestions.
3. Edit your rough copy.
4. Write the good copy and hand it in.