



Lesson Planning: **Application**

Subject:

Grade Range:

Research Writing: Significant People from History

3rd – 8th

Welcome to Blackbird & Company’s English Language Arts program!

Research Writing Discovery Guides are one of the Application elements of our ELA program.

In 5 week segments, your students will walk through the process of studying a significant person from history, culminating in the crafting of an original biographical essay. This tool teaches project processes and pacing to help your students learn to do independent research work in the future utilizing this model.

This planning Schedule is provided to help YOU as you plan and prepare to mentor your students in learning to engage in research, producing a 5 paragraph biographical essay and project to present their findings.

Are you ready? Let’s go!

The following guidelines assume you are planning for the start of a typical school year beginning the last week of August and ending the first week of June. This equals about 40 calendar weeks, and allows for 175-180 days of instruction when accounting for breaks and holidays. If you are starting mid-year, or are following a different schedule, simply adjust the dates as needed.

Research Writing Discovery Guide - Planning

June – August (Overall subject preparation)

- Familiarize yourself with the material and read ALL introductory information including the Assignment Checklist and Essay Diagram in the opening pages of the Discovery Guide.

Research Writing Discovery Guide - Mapping

July – August (Scheduling for the school year)

Things to consider as you map:

- Research Writing will require at least one hour per week of focused time, perhaps more for students who read at a slower pace. Each Research Writing Year Pack includes 4 Discovery Guide choices. All 4 do not need to be accomplished in one academic year. Learning to do research and write a research paper is an important skill that all students need to master over time. As you decide how many Research Discovery Guides to include, consider putting other applicational elements on hold to create the focused time and attention needed for a quality product. We would recommend that your students engage in a minimum of 2 Research Writing projects per year.
- Guide corrections need to be done weekly to insure your student receives all input, corrections, and encouragement needed to be successful.
- Know yourself! Look at your calendar before mapping and block out any planned holidays and vacations for the entire school year. Next, look at the overview of all you plan to accomplish this school year. Considering reading time and other writing assignments planned, select the best times to add in the 5 week blocks needed for Research Writing. This work should be completed in 5 consecutive weeks to maintain continuity of thought and content.
- Map out your intended Research Writing schedule on your academic calendar in pencil, leaving room for possible adjustments along the way. Pay attention to other assignments and work load to avoid overwhelming your student. Remember, school can always stretch out to the end of June or into the summer if necessary or advantageous for your family.



SAMPLE MAPPING GUIDE

Now you have decisions to make about holidays, activities, and interruptions in scheduling.

Your student should easily complete this unit by the end of April, even if you take time off for fun projects around the holidays.

This sample schedule assumes the following breaks: 1 week in November for Fall Break, 3 weeks in December/January for Winter Break, 1 week in April for Spring Break.

Begin #1 of 4 Research Discovery Guides

Duration: 5 weeks per guide (2-4 guides per year)

Guide #1 / Week 1: Section 1 (week 1 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5							
GUIDE 1										GUIDE 2										GUIDE 3										GUIDE 4											

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go through the Discovery Guide with your student and set expectations. Read Section 1 (Early Life) assigned reading. 	
Tue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Character Lexicon Definitions and Sentences pages. This Lexicon work will draw your students' attention to the ideas and themes they should be watching for as they engage in their research. 	
Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the core and supplemental reading material, complete the Comprehension Questions and begin Brainstorm page to record ideas and examples from the reading that your student may want to include in their paragraph about the early life of their subject. 10 ideas are minimal. Use supplemental reading if they cannot find 10 from the core reading text. They should be able to fill up the Brainstorm page before they complete the Topic Wheel. 	
Thu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Brainstorm ideas page if necessary. Complete Topic Wheel page in preparation for writing. 	
Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the Topic Wheel created, write Topic Paragraph 1: First Draft. Turn in Discovery Guide to your teacher for edits and conferencing. 	

Guide #1 / Week 2: Section 2 (week 2 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5							
GUIDE 1										GUIDE 2										GUIDE 3										GUIDE 4											

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Section 2 (Life's Work) assigned reading. 	
Tue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Character Lexicon Definitions and Sentence pages. 	
Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Comprehension Questions. Begin Brainstorm page using both core and supplemental reading materials. 	
Thu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Brainstorm ideas if necessary. (10 minimum) Complete Topic Wheel in preparation for writing. 	
Fri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using Topic Wheel, write Topic Paragraph 2: First Draft. Turn in Discovery Guide to your teacher for edits and conferencing. 	

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Research Writing: Significant People from History



Guide #1 / Week 3: Section 3 (week 3 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						
GUIDE 1										GUIDE 2										GUIDE 3										GUIDE 4										

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Read Section 3 (Later Life and Legacy) assigned reading.	
Tue	• Complete Character Lexicon Definitions and Sentence pages.	
Wed	• Complete Comprehension Questions • Begin Brainstorm page using both core and supplemental reading materials.	
Thu	• Finish Brainstorm ideas if necessary. (10 minimum) • Complete Topic Wheel in preparation for writing.	
Fri	• Using Topic Wheel, write Topic Paragraph 3: First Draft. • Turn in Discovery Guide to your teacher for edits and conferencing.	

Guide #1 / Week 4: Section 4 (week 4 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						
GUIDE 1										GUIDE 2										GUIDE 3										GUIDE 4										

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Reread introductory information on page xi about Opening Paragraph elements. • Write the Opening Paragraph: First Draft. • Turn in Discovery Guide to your teacher for edits and conferencing.	
Tue	• Reread introductory information on page xi about Closing Paragraph elements. • Write the Closing Paragraph: First Draft. • Turn in your Discovery Guide to your teacher for edits and conferencing.	
Wed	• Using all of the edited First Draft elements from your Discovery Guide, slowly and beautifully write out your Final Draft.	
Thu	• Look over Section 5 Assignment Options in your Discovery Guide and begin planning or begin work on your culminating project.	
Fri	• Continue work on your Section 5 Project.	

Guide #1 / Week 5: Section 5 (week 5 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						
GUIDE 1										GUIDE 2										GUIDE 3										GUIDE 4										

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Spend this week completing your Section 5 Project. • Schedule a time with the teacher to present the completed project and turn in 5 paragraph biographical essay.	
Tue	• Section 5 Project and/or presentation.	
Wed	• Section 5 Project and/or presentation.	
Thu	• Section 5 Project and/or presentation.	
Fri	• Section 5 Project and/or presentation.	

Complete Research Discovery Guide #1

Scheduling will continue in this pattern for the remaining 1-3 Research Discovery Guides