Historical Persona Essay (Modified)

CCA10.4g Write a historical persona essay that:

* + includes a historic person
  + defines important moments in the historic person’s life so essay is well-focused and organized
  + shows understanding of the person, the events, and gathered details about the place and time
  + includes reflections and observations about person’s life and experiences
  + uses the “I” voice (imagined self to be the person and to be part of these events) in order to get a feel for the experience.
  + includes thoughts and feelings
  + employs an easy-to-follow organization.

**Genre: Personal Essay**

* A personal essay is a less formal essay genre.
* Writers of this genre convey a profound sense of authenticity and transparency because they invite readers into their lives, to share their experiences.
* They often focus on a singular moment of utter profoundness. They want to recreate that moment through the essay. In this way they are allowing readers to experience a bit of what it was like to be in that time and place.

**Historical Persona Essay**

* It is all of the above descriptors.
* In this case, the writer adopts the persona of a historical figure and imagines his/her experience and writes that experience in the voice of the historical figure.

**Your Task**

* Choose a historical figure **who has faced a significant challenge** (refer to our brainstorm notes)
* Refer to checklists below.

**Before Writing Activities**

🞏 Activate Prior Knowledge of personal essays.

🞏 Use graphic organizer to plan, organize, and sequence essay.

**During/After Writing Activities**

🞏 Create draft, revise, edit/peer edit

🞏 Consider message and focus. Are they clear and well-defined?

🞏 Descriptions are accurate and relevant. Word choice is appropriate.

🞏 Point of view is consistently first person.

🞏 Includes introduction, transitions, and conclusion.

🞏 Check for spelling, punctuation, and so on.

Pre-Writing Organizer

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Who is your persona? Where do you live? What is your family background? What is your age? What is your occupation? |
| 1. What challenge(s) have you faced or are you facing? If your challenges are societal, describe the kind of society in which you live. |
| 1. How did you feel having to deal with your challenge? (Use inferences from what you’ve read to imagine the feelings) |
| 1. How have you overcome or accepted your challenge(s)? How have your challenges made you who you are? |
| 1. What are some of the highlights in your life? What achievements do you most celebrate? |
| 1. What could you tell others who are facing a similar challenge? |

**Suggested outline of essay**

**Paragraph One: (Box A)** Introduce *yourself* (in your persona) and the most important details of the person’s background. Set out the purpose of the essay, i.e., to describe your challenges.

**Paragraph Two:** **(Box B)** Describe the challenge you face/are facing. If it’s a physical disability, describe how you acquired it and/or how it affects you. If it’s challenges imposed by society, describe your society and why you are underprivileged.

**Paragraph Three (Box C-D)** Describe how the challenge has affected your life, your perception of the world, your sense of safety and acceptance. Describe your feelings regarding the challenge.

**Paragraph Final: (Box E-F)** Explain how the challenge has been important to your growth as a person. Offer a final statement about overcoming or living with a challenge. You can quote from someone.