

THE BABY-PROOF BIOGRAPHY

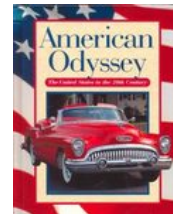
1-2 page biography, 1-2 page rhetorical reflection, prototype

ASSIGNMENT SIX

Due M 30-Apr-07

For your next assignment, I'd like for you to consider the places where heroification takes place and the rhetorical strategy involved in the process. Using research, rhetorical analysis, creativity, and rhetorical reflection, your task is to create your very own "wartless hero"—or warful villain. To do this, you'll need to:

- **Secure a prototype.** You'll need to track down a sample circumstance of heroification. That can be a textbook, an encyclopedia entry, a newspaper article, whatever. Examine your sample to see how the author's rhetorical strategies (textual and visual) are working. Which elements of the sample serve to heroify? (Note: You'll need to make a copy of your prototype for submission and include an appropriate citation of its source in a works cited page.)
- **Make your own heroifying text** for a famous person or a not-so-famous person. Feel free to use Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org) as a source for biographical information. (The person you choose to heroify should not be the same person who is heroified in your prototype.) Your text should heroify its subject. Use the rhetorical strategies described by Loewen and/or demonstrated in your prototype. Pictures and boxes and bullets and font changes and color splashes and dancing ponies may be incorporated however you see fit. 12 pt double-spaced Times New Roman is strongly discouraged. You should emulate and improve upon the verbal *and* visual characteristics of your prototype.
- **Write a brief reflection on how you completed the rhetorical task.** Explain what it means to heroify (according to Loewen and your prototype) and how you went about doing so. Cite the prototype and Loewen, where necessary. Cite the information you chose to include from the Wikipedia biography and which you chose to leave out. Explain why you made those content decisions. You should cite evidence from your own work here too! Remember: There is more to heroification than inclusion and exclusion. A 1-2 page description of what you put in and what you left out is insufficient.
- **In sum:** You'll be turning in your heroifying text, your rhetorical reflection complete with works cited, and the prototype you chose to emulate. In that order. All stapled tightly together as though they just wouldn't be happy apart.



Also: Feel free to use the other readings from the class to inform your work. Remember that they've had quite a lot to say about what is "consumable"—what appeals to consumers, to viewers, to teens, to bored students, to American ideals? This is an opportunity for you to put a lot of the thinking we've been doing in our class to work in your writing.

Your project should:

1. **Feature a biography that makes an implicit complex, consequential claim** (such that the overall effect of the biography will be an understanding that this person is a hero for x reasons).
2. **Feature a biography that presents thoughtful rhetorical strategy appropriate to your prototypical audience.** (You may be targeting school-aged students, middle-aged golfers, newspaper readers. Be sure to write to that audience appropriately and explain how you adjusted your style to do so.)
3. **Offer persuasive rhetorical reflection and analysis of your own work** including supporting evidence and interpretation.
4. **Demonstrate an understanding of how to use multiple texts in the service of your own writing.** (Cite the prototype and Wikipedia—as well as any theorists you choose to include. Your works cited should comply with MLA guidelines.)
5. **Present a well-organized biography and a well-organized reflection.** Both should facilitate reader understanding. The former should persuasively demonstrate your ability to heroify; the latter should persuasively demonstrate your ability to prove that you have persuasively heroified.
6. **Be fun, and maybe even funny,** to read. Be creative. Strive to cater your content to the audience and the purpose.

Bring 2 copies of your biography and reflection to share with peers during peer review.

Bring 1 copy of your full packet to submit to me.