



Important People

Students will choose a person for an in-depth study of the life, influences, and heritage of that person. Efforts should be made to choose someone who will be interesting, but not someone who is already well-known to the student researcher.

Research should focus on three main areas:

1) personal life

- * who is the person?
- * where did/does the person live?
- * where did the person grow up, go to school, go to church, and spend his/her childhood?
- * what were/are the family dynamics?
- * who and what influenced the person as a youth?
- * is the person still alive?
- * if he/she is alive, what is the person doing now?

2) celebrity status

- * what is it that makes the person well-known?
- * who and what helped the person develop an expertise that led to a type of celebrity status?
- * how did/does the person deal with being a well-known and familiar face?
- * how did/does the person's expertise affect his/her family, friends, neighborhood, community, region?
- * at what age did the person gain his/her fame?
- * what factors led to the celebrity status?

3) ethnicity and heritage

- * what was/is the ethnic background of the person?
- * how recent was the person's family immigration?
- * what were/are the customs and traditions that may have contributed to the person's successes and/or failures?
- * how much is known about the ethnic background and heritage of the person, and how his/her ethnicity and heritage have contributed to the celebrity status?

The following is a list of possible choices for research about well-known people from southwestern Pennsylvania and/or the surrounding areas. This is a list of suggestions only; it is not comprehensive or all-inclusive. If a student chooses someone who is not on the list, he/she must be able to show clearly the person's ties to the region.



Blackburn, William Wallace
Benson, George

Carnegie, Andrew
Carson, Rachel
Cassatt, Mary
Clemente, Roberto
Cochran, Sarah
Conn, Billy
Conrad, David

Ditka, Mike
Dorsett, Tony

Feldon, Barbara
Foster, Stephen Collins
Frick, Henry Clay

Gallatin, Albert
Gibson, Josh
Goldblum, Jeff
Graham, Martha

Harris, Charles "Teenie"
Harris, Franco
Heinz, Henry J.
Hines, Earl "Fatha"

Jones, B.F.
Jones, Shirley

Keaton, Michael
Kelly, Gene
Kelly, Jim

Laughlin, James
Lawrence, David

Mancini, Henry
Marino, Dan
Marshall, George C.
Marshall, Rob
Mellon, Andrew
Mellon, Richard B.
Montana, Joe
Morgan, J.P.

Namath, Joe

Palmer, Arnold
Posey, Cumberland

Rogers, Fred
Romero, George
Rooney, Arthur J.

Selznick, David
Stein, Gertrude
Strayhorn, Billy
Swisshelm, Jane

Tanner, Henry O.

Unitas, Johnny

Warhol, Andy
Westinghouse, George
Wilson, August