

Obituary and Tombstone Project

DBQ Project Essential Questions:

- (1) How did the author's personal life influence his/her writing?**
- (2) How did the times in which the author lived, the life events the author experienced influence his/her writing?**
- (3) How did this author influence the genre of literature for which he/she is best known?**

You will be writing an obituary and designing a poster-board tombstone for the author you have researched. An obituary is a published article about the life of a person who has recently died. A tombstone is the stone monument that marks the grave of the deceased (a person who has died).

The Obituary:

Your obituary is a published, final document. It is a five-paragraph essay, as follows:

- (1) Paragraph 1:** Identify the author, his/her dates of birth (and if appropriate, death). Identify the genre of literature for which he/she is most famous, as well as the titles of the author's most famous works.
- (2) Paragraph 2:** This paragraph should include details of the author's life, concentrating on those details that answer essential question #1.
- (3) Paragraph 3:** This paragraph should include details for the times and/or life events that influenced this author's writing (e.g., this paragraph answers Essential Question #2).
- (4) Paragraph 4:** This paragraph should identify the genre of literature for which this author is best known, reiterate the works he/she is best known for, and answer Essential Question #3 = how did this author influence the genre (i.e., this may include the influence he/she had on authors who followed in this genre).

The Tombstone:

Your tombstone should be poster-board size and should be made from poster-board (no styrofoam, pre-made tombstones will be accepted). It should contain the author's full name, dates of birth and death, and an epitaph (i.e., a short saying about author: "Here lies J.R.R. Tolkien, an author best known for his works of fantasy"). The tombstone need not be the traditional shape, but may be creatively shaped to reflect an aspect of the author's fiction.

DBQ-Obituary/Tombstone Rubric

Student: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Criteria:	Student Evaluation	Teacher Evaluation
First paragraph identifies author, dates of birth (death, if appropriate), genre of literature author is known for		/10
Second paragraph addresses elements of author's life that answer Essential Question #1		/10
Third paragraph addresses elements of author's life that answer Essential Question #2		/10
Fourth paragraph addresses author's impact on genre (Essential Question #3)		/10
Fifth paragraph resolves and "wraps-up" author's accomplishments.		/10
Bibliography is complete and accurate.		/10
Paper is well edited for conventions: grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation.		/5
Paper follows final copy guidelines: neat, in blue/black ink, etc.		/5
Student Evaluation is <u>Thoughtfully</u> Completed		/5
Creativity: Tombstone: Author's name, dates of birth (death if appropriate)(10 pts) and epitaph (15pts)		/25
TOTAL	/100	/100

Give yourself a TOTAL! 