

Oral Presentation: I Am an Influential American

In fifth grade we will study the history of the United States. We will learn about many different people who influenced our country's history.

You already influence other people around you, and you will continue to influence others as you grow up. Each of you will have an opportunity to present your autobiography to the class, so that we can get to know and appreciate YOU! We hope you and your parent enjoy looking through photos, collecting significant objects, and thinking of stories that you can share with the class. We are looking forward to listening to what you have to say.

How should I organize my presentation?

We will take notes on your presentation. This outline shows how you should organize your report, so that it will make sense in our notes.

I. Introduction (2 min.):

Tell us your name and give us a bit of interesting information about yourself such as: the origin of your name, a story about your childhood, something interesting that you did this summer, your favorite activities, foods, colors, sport, or subject in school, facts about your family, a pet that is special to you... *(Please do not use all of these suggestions and feel free to include your own ideas. The introduction should tell us some interesting and important things about you that do not relate to the influence categories, II, III, and IV below.)*

II. Three Significant Influences in My Life (3 min.)

All of us have been influenced both positively and negatively in our lives. You need to identify three important influences in your life and the effect that those influences have had on you. For example, an event that influenced Mrs. Simili when she was your age was her parents' separation and divorce. This had a negative influence because she was very angry for many years and also a positive influence because she grew a lot in her faith in God. This influence has helped shape who she is today. Some important categories of influence are listed in the box on the note-taking page. We will classify your three influences by category, so read the categories to help you think about the three most important influences in your life. Make sure you tell us the **EFFECT** of the influence on your life.

III. Three Ways I Influence Others Now (3 min.)

You influence your family members, others at school, other friends. For this section you need to explain specifically how you influence others. For example, Mr. Fearey had a friend in high school whose parents were alcoholics. He helped his friend through difficult times with that, and they are still best friends today after 50 years!

IV. Conclusion: Ways I Hope to Influence Others as an Adult (2 min.)

Share with us the two most important ways that you hope to influence others as an adult. You may want to tell us how you hope to influence others as a parent someday, in your career, in your faith community, or as a volunteer. Be creative and entertain big dreams!

(Keep reading on the next page...)

What format do I need to use for this presentation?

You can choose how you want to present your photos, objects, and information. If you'd like, you can bring a photo album and share parts of it with us as you talk. You can mount photos on a poster board, make a video or show a presentation on our school computer.

This is an oral presentation. You are telling us aloud the story of the influences in your life. You may use notes or Power Point slides, but you need to speak, not read to us. Please let your teacher know ahead of time if your presentation requires a VCR, TV, or a particular program on our school computer. Your grade will depend on the quality of your presentation, NOT on what format you choose.

What makes a great report?

The class needs to be able to understand the points you make, so work on:

- **Organization** – You need to cover all the influences listed in the outline above and know what you want to say about each one.
- **Effort** – This is shown by the quality of the visual aids you bring for your presentation and the manner in which these visual aids support the main points in your presentation.
- **Public Speaking** – You need to practice your presentation at home before an audience. You may refer to notes or Power Point slides, but you should be speaking directly to us, not reading off cards or a computer. You need to speak clearly.

PRACTICE your autobiographical presentation ***at least three times*** at home before you give it at school, and ask for ideas from your audience at home about ways to improve your presentation. This will help you to feel confident and prepared. Remember, there is no one else like you, and we are eager to learn about you!

Influential Americans: Notes

Outline of the Autobiography of _____

I. Significant Influences in _____ Life

A. Description of Influence _____ (*Category Name*)

B. _____ (_____)

C. _____ (_____)

II. Ways that _____ Influences Others Now

A. _____ (_____)

B. _____ (_____)

C. _____ (_____)

III. Ways that _____ Wants to Influence Others in the Future

A. _____ (_____)

B. _____ (_____)

Categories

Culture
Education
Event
Experience
Faith/Values
Family
Friendship
Interest
Media
Occupation
Personality