

Alliance Theatre

institute

Historical Figures Come to Life

A Virtual Resource for Middle School Students

Created by Courtney Moors, Teaching Artist

Objectives:

- Identify significant events in the life of a notable historical figure
- Make inferences regarding the historical figure's thoughts and feelings
- Compose and present a monologue from the historical figure's point of view
- Design a mask or costume that represents the life and work of the historical figure

Georgia Standards of Excellence:

- ELAGSE6W3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- TA6.CR.2: Develop scripts through theatrical techniques.
- TA6.PR.1: Act by communicating and sustaining roles in formal and informal environments.
- VA6.CR.2: Choose from a range of materials and/or methods of traditional and contemporary artistic practices to plan and create works of art.
- VA6.PR.1: Plan, prepare, and present completed works of art.

Try it!

Step 1: Select a historical figure to research.

- Tip: the person may be an artist, inventor, politician, activist, or other public figure.
- Gather research about the person's life, making particular note of:
 - How and why they "made history"
 - At least (3) facts about their early life; and
 - At least (3) facts about their adult life and career

Step 2: Use your research and imagination to compose a monologue from the figure's point of view.

- Open with a hook to grab your audience's attention (try using onomatopoeia, an anecdote, a question, a quote, flashback, dialogue, or an interesting fact).
- Then, use first-person perspective ("I") to tell your story as if you are that historical figure.
- Talk about your childhood as well as your adult life, and be sure to share feelings throughout.
- Close your monologue by summarizing how you made history, and how you are remembered.

Step 3: Design a mask or costume that represents the life and work of your historical figure.

- Tip: Look at photographs online to create artwork that is inspired by your figure's life and work.

Step 4: Perform!

- Once you have completed your monologue and mask or costume, share your piece with your family (at home) and friends (perhaps in a virtual space!).