

Student Handout 1:

Civil Rights Pioneers School Project

Your local school district is planning on building a new school and is soliciting proposals for naming it. As a local leader with a strong interest in civil rights and social justice, you have decided to propose naming the school after an early hero in the struggle for African American civil rights and equality.

Your first task is to write a persuasive essay to the school board by identifying why your subject is important and deserving of this honor. This should **not** be a straight biographical sketch; but instead should be an opportunity to use biographical information to demonstrate this person's importance and legacy in a persuasive manner.

In addition, to help the school board better understand your subject's historical role, you should identify at least ten documents or artifacts that will be placed in a historical gallery to be displayed at the school. These objects could be pictures, maps, documents, artifacts, etc. In your proposal, you should explain what the objects are and why they are important to better understanding your subject.

Lastly, you will do a 3-5 minute PowerPoint presentation to the school board (your classmates) in an effort to persuade them to choose your subject as the new school's namesake.

Your proposal (and grade!) will be based on all three of these elements:

1. A five-paragraph persuasive essay explaining why your subject is deserving of this honor.
2. A separate document outlining the ten objects that you would place in the new school's historical gallery. A short explanation of and a rationale for each of the documents is also required.
3. A 3-5 minute presentation to the board giving an overview of your subject and their importance in the struggle for civil rights.

Library and computer lab time will be provided to assist you in your task.

Good luck!