

Movie Proposal Project

Requirements: Write a research essay proposing that a new film be made about a historical person or historical event of your choice. The person must have had a book about written about him or her. The event must be important enough to have had a book written about it.

Your essay must be between 1,500 – 2,000 words long. Follow MLA Formatting guidelines. Direct quotes do not count towards overall word count.

At least four outside sources must be used.

- **One must be a book** - - either print or ebook.
- **One must be an encyclopedia article** found via the Sojourner Truth Library.
- **One must be an essay or article** from either a book, scholarly journal, newspaper, or magazine. This essay or article must have been found via the Sojourner Truth Library.

Prohibited topics (because I have read too many essays about these people): Walt Disney, Marylyn Monroe, and Audrey Hepburn. No pop culture icons, please. This is a research project.

The chart below provides you with a basic overview of how your essay should be organized.



Part I: Identify the Problem

In your opening paragraph(s), introduce and explain the problem. For this essay, you will choose one of two problems:

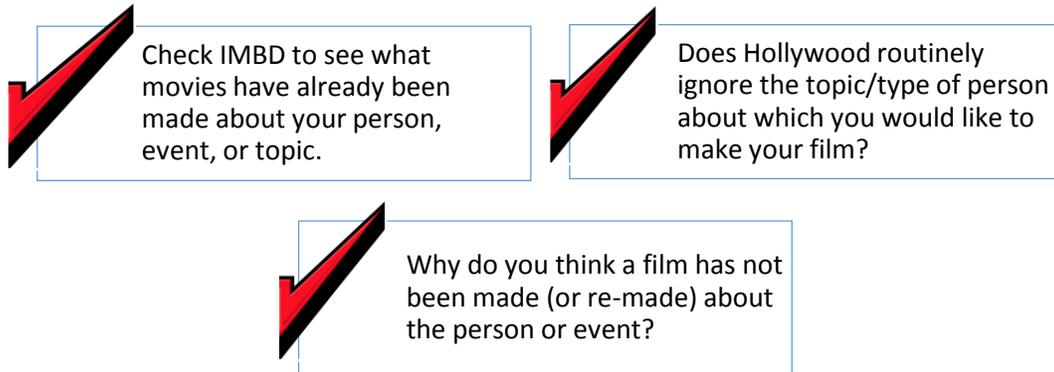
1. Hollywood has not yet made a movie about a particular person or historical event that you feel is deserving of a full-length, feature film.

OR

2. Hollywood has made a movie about the person or historical event; however, this movie is flawed and you would like see a remake.

Basic claim: A movie needs to be made about _____ because _____.

Basic research ideas/questions for this section:



Part II: Explain why the film should be made

This is the heart of your essay. In this section, you need to provide several clear reasons as to why the person or event is important enough to warrant a movie. In this section, **use research** to support your claims.



If your movie is about a person, is that person admirable? if so do some research about what s/he accomplished. If the person is not admirable, why is his/her story important?



If your movie is about an event, explain why the event is important. How has it changed history? The world? etc.



What kind of movie should be made? An action-packed adventure movie or a quiet romance? Be sure to identify the genre of the film.



If another movie about your person or topic has already been made, you must explain why: 1) That version is flawed; and 2) How your version will improve upon the original version.



Movies are narratives - - stories. Why is this a good story? Why will audiences find the story compelling? Think about such elements as: conflict and themes.

Part III: Anticipate Objections

Some possible objections might be:

1. Why do we need another _____ film about _____?

Fill in the blanks: *Why do we need another action/adventure movie about World War II (or Vietnam or Afghanistan)? Why do we need another inspiring story about an athlete who overcame the odds? Why do we need another film about a teacher?* Etc. In other words, while the person or event you are writing about may be a new topic for a movie, there may be movies that have already been made about very similar topics. Why should Hollywood go ahead with your idea?

2. Your person or event is not that well known among the general public. Who is really going to want to see this film?

If you would like to see a movie made about a little-known person or event, it is likely that audiences may not know about him/her. Or it may be that you would like to see a movie made about a historical figure who is well-known outside of the United States. Why should Hollywood take a risk on your idea? (Hint: You may want to look at other films that have, in fact, attracted a big audience even though the person/event was not well-known.)

Part IV: Conclusion: Explain why the film should be made now.



Why is **This Year** the year to made this film about the person/event?