

Writing a Biography with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To write a biography about a significant person using chronological order, third-person perspective, and cohesive devices.

Use this scaffold to organise your information about a famous person. Ellie the Elephant has a wonderful memory for history, so make sure you include key dates and important life events in the correct order. Remember to use the third person (he/she/they) throughout your writing.

Born in a small village in 1912, the inventor spent their early years fascinated by how mechanical objects worked.

Word bank: Subsequently · Following this · During their childhood · A major turning point · In addition · However · Ultimately · Remarkably · In the years that followed

1. Introduction: Who is the person you are writing about, and why are they famous? Start with: 'Widely recognised for their contributions to...', (2 marks)

2. Early Life: Describe where they were born and what their childhood was like. Start with: 'During their early years, [Name] lived in...' (2 marks)

3. Main Achievements: What were the most important things they achieved? Start with: 'A major turning point in their life occurred when...' (3 marks)

4. Legacy: Why do we remember them today? Start with: 'Ultimately, the work of [Name] changed the world by...' (2 marks)

5. Interesting Fact: Include one surprising or fun fact about the person. Start with: 'It is interesting to note that...', (1 mark)

Extension challenge: Try to include a quote from the person you are writing about. Use inverted commas correctly to show exactly what they said.