

Writing a Biography with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To structure a biographical report using chronological order, formal tone, and cohesive devices.

Use this scaffold to organise your research about a significant person. Remember to keep your writing in the third person and use the past tense for events that have already happened.

Born in a small village in 1925, Arthur Pendelton was destined to change the world of architecture with his innovative designs.

Word bank: Subsequently · Furthermore · Despite the challenges · During this period · In recognition of · A significant milestone · Nevertheless · Following this success

1. Early Life: Introduce the subject by stating their name, date of birth, and where they grew up. How did their childhood influence who they became? Start with: 'Born in...', 'Growing up in...' (2 marks)

2. Key Achievements: Describe the most important things this person accomplished. What challenges did they face? Start with: 'Throughout their career...', 'One of their most significant achievements was...' (2 marks)

3. The Turning Point: Explain a specific moment or event that changed the person's life or career path. Start with: 'A major turning point occurred when...', 'It was at this stage that...' (2 marks)

4. Legacy and Impact: Summarise why this person is remembered today and how they have influenced others. Start with: 'Today, the legacy of... remains...', 'They are widely regarded as...' (2 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: Ellie the Elephant loves stories with heart. Include a concluding thought about the subject's character. Start with: 'Ultimately, it was their... that made them truly remarkable.' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a historical figure who has made a contribution to science or the arts. Write one additional paragraph explaining how their work has helped people in the present day.