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Discourse Community/Genre Assignment

Genre: **Political Biography**

The art of biography is a written in literature that is made in order to record a description of a famous person, but it is written by some else. People who fall in this category can be famous politicians, actors, athletes, singers, writers, etc. In the article *Rollyson explains the art of biography*, by Aldemaro Romero Jr. In this article Romero includes what Rollyson states about the genre of biography. Aldemaro Romero Jr. is a Venezuelan/American scientist, communicator, and advocate of liberal arts education. On the other side, Dr. Carl Rollyson, is a professor of Journalism at Baruch College, the City University of New York, has published more than forty books ranging in subject matter from biographies of Marylin Monroe and other famous people. In the article Romero quotes what Rollyson stated, “I think people read biographies simply to learn. I think it was (the writer Ralph Waldo) Emerson who said that biography is teaching by example. People want these examples and Emerson himself was a great one for talking about the lives of people.” This demonstrates that biographies are really good because from them people learn about the lives of famous people that exist and existed in the globe. Later in, the same article, Rollyson explains what makes up a good biography and how it is differentiated by a bad biography. “A biography is arranged, though it doesn’t have to be chronologically, it, nevertheless, has to follow some kind of basic core or truth or pattern in the subject’s life.” Then he explains a bad written biography. “What makes a bad biography is

essentially when the biographer keeps saying, ‘look at what I found.’” This shows how to identify a good and bad biography, and the difficulty of writing a biography.

Although, writing a biography requires a lot of research and evidence in order to prove that what is written is true. However, sometimes there is lack of information due to the fact that many famous people existed early in the years and there is little, or none documents stating their life such as an exact birthday, and birthplace. In the article *Biography*, written by Paul Murray Kendall, an American academic and historian, states, “A biographer in pursuit of an individual long dead is usually hampered by a lack of sources: it is often impossible to check or verify what written evidence there is; there are no witness to cross-examine. No method has yet been developed by which to overcome such problems.” This evidence clearly demonstrates that some biographies are difficult to prove the information they contain due to the time period on which certain person lived in. This is also a good example of the sacrifice that biographers have to do in order to record the more accurate information possible in order for people to get the right information.

Examples for this Genre:

Abraham Lincoln (*The White House, The United States Government*)

Abraham Lincoln became the United States’ 16th President in 1861, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy in 1863.

Lincoln warned the South in his Inaugural Address: “In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you.... You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it.”

Lincoln thought secession illegal, and was willing to use force to defend Federal law and the Union. When Confederate batteries fired on Fort Sumter and forced its surrender, he called on

the states for 75,000 volunteers. Four more slave states joined the Confederacy but four remained within the Union. The Civil War had begun.

The son of a Kentucky frontiersman, Lincoln had to struggle for a living and for learning. Five months before receiving his party's nomination for President, he sketched his life:

"I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks.... My father ... removed from Kentucky to ... Indiana, in my eighth year.... It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up.... Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher ... but that was all."

Lincoln made extraordinary efforts to attain knowledge while working on a farm, splitting rails for fences, and keeping store at New Salem, Illinois. He was a captain in the Black Hawk War, spent eight years in the Illinois legislature, and rode the circuit of courts for many years. His law partner said of him, "His ambition was a little engine that knew no rest."

He married Mary Todd, and they had four boys, only one of whom lived to maturity. In 1858 Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for Senator. He lost the election, but in debating with Douglas he gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860.

As President, he built the Republican Party into a strong national organization. Further, he rallied most of the northern Democrats to the Union cause. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy.

Lincoln never let the world forget that the Civil War involved an even larger issue. This he stated most movingly in dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg: "that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln won re-election in 1864, as Union military triumphs heralded an end to the war. In his planning for peace, the President was flexible and generous, encouraging Southerners to lay down their arms and join speedily in reunion.

The spirit that guided him was clearly that of his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C.: "With malice toward none; with charity

for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds....”

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington by John Wilkes Booth, an actor, who somehow thought he was helping the South. The opposite was the result, for with Lincoln's death, the possibility of peace with magnanimity died.

The Presidential biographies on WhiteHouse.gov are from “The Presidents of the United States of America,” by Frank Freidel and Hugh Sidey. Copyright 2006 by the White House Historical Association.

Martin Luther King Jr. (NobelPrize.org)

Martin Luther King, Jr., (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, serving from 1914 to 1931; his father has served from then until the present, and from 1960 until his death Martin Luther acted as co-pastor. Martin Luther attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had graduated. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, Martin Luther King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Always a strong worker for civil rights for members of his race, King was, by this time, a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation. He was ready, then, early in December, 1955, to accept the leadership of the first great Negro nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States, the bus boycott described by Gunnar Jahn in his presentation speech in honor of the laureate. The boycott lasted 382 days. On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Negroes and whites rode the buses as equals. During

these days of boycott, King was arrested, his home was bombed, he was subjected to personal abuse, but at the same time he emerged as a Negro leader of the first rank.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", a manifesto of the Negro revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of \$54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.

John F. Kennedy

By Marc J. Selverstone

John F. Kennedy was born into a rich, politically connected Boston family of Irish-Catholics. He and his eight siblings enjoyed a privileged childhood of elite private schools, sailboats, servants, and summer homes. During his childhood and youth, "Jack" Kennedy suffered frequent serious illnesses. Nevertheless, he strove to make his own way, writing a best-selling book while still in college at Harvard University and volunteering for hazardous combat duty in the Pacific during World War II. Kennedy's wartime service made him a hero. After a short stint as a journalist,

Kennedy entered politics, serving in the US House of Representatives from 1947 to 1953 and the US Senate from 1953 to 1961.

Kennedy was the youngest person elected US president and the first Roman Catholic to serve in that office. For many observers, his presidency came to represent the ascendance of youthful idealism in the aftermath of World War II. The promise of this energetic and telegenic leader was not to be fulfilled, as he was assassinated near the end of his third year in office. For many Americans, the public murder of President Kennedy remains one of the most traumatic events in memory; countless Americans can remember exactly where they were when they heard that President Kennedy had been shot. His shocking death stood at the forefront of a period of political and social instability in the country and the world.

Bill de Blasio (*Written by André Munro*)

Bill de Blasio, original name Warren Wilhelm, Jr., (born May 8, 1961, New York, New York, U.S.), American politician who was mayor of New York City (2014–). De Blasio also served as Hillary Clinton's campaign manager for her first senatorial campaign (2000) and as a New York City councillor (2002–09).

At age five he moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, with his mother, Maria, a public relations manager, and his father, Warren, a veteran of World War II who had served in the Pacific theatre and lost a leg in a grenade attack. His father, after struggling with alcoholism, later committed suicide. De Blasio graduated from New York University in 1984 and obtained a master's degree in international and public affairs at Columbia University in 1987. (Though called Bill from an early age, he changed his name in 1983 to Warren de Blasio-Wilhelm—his mother's family name was de Blasio—and then adopted Bill de Blasio as his legal name in 2002.)

De Blasio proved himself to be politically savvy early in life: as a student activist in high school and college, he advocated for student rights and protested issues as diverse as library hours and nuclear proliferation. After graduate school de Blasio served as a social relief volunteer in Nicaragua—a country then torn by a civil war between the Marxist government of the Sandinistas and counterrevolutionary forces—and returned to the United States a committed socialist. Though adopting more-centrist views with time, de Blasio continued to defend left-leaning policies.

He entered municipal politics in 1989 as a junior staffer in the mayoral campaign of David Dinkins and later became an assistant for community affairs in the Dinkins administration. In 1997 de Blasio was appointed as a regional director in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, working under Andrew Cuomo. De Blasio left that position two years later after being hired to lead Hillary Clinton's first bid for the U.S. Senate. As campaign manager, de Blasio encouraged teamwork and open deliberation, to the point of being criticized by some as indecisive.

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After serving on a New York City school board, de Blasio was elected in 2001 (taking office in 2002) to represent the 39th district of Brooklyn in City Hall. After three terms as a city councillor, de Blasio successfully ran in 2009 for the citywide position of public advocate.

In January 2013 de Blasio announced outside his Brooklyn home his intention to run for mayor of New York City. Underestimated during much of the Democratic Party primary, de Blasio secured the nomination with more than 40 percent of the vote, 14 points ahead of second-place finisher William Thompson, the former city comptroller. De Blasio was again underestimated by his opponents in the mayoral race, but his campaign gained traction as he came to be seen as the embodiment of change in a city led for more than 12 years by independent Michael Bloomberg. Support for de Blasio transcended class and racial divides. Under Bloomberg's mayoralship, New York City had become safer, more prosperous, and arguably more pleasant (notably through bold urban development projects) but also infamously unaffordable for all but the wealthiest New Yorkers. De Blasio placed economic inequality at the centre of his campaign, adopting the theme of New York as a tale of two cities where a few do incredibly well while the many struggle to pay for life's necessities. More concretely, de Blasio promised to raise taxes on New Yorkers earning more than \$500,000 a year and to use the resulting monies to improve education in the city, notably by providing universal prekindergarten. De Blasio also vowed to promote affordable housing and to better protect renters against abusive landlords.

Another key element of de Blasio's campaign was his commitment to reform the so-called stop-and-frisk program of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) authorizing police officers to stop, question, and search individuals suspected of criminal activity without the need of probable cause. Seen by some as an effective crime-reduction tool, the NYPD stop-and-frisk

practice was decried by many, including de Blasio, for unfairly targeting African Americans and people of Hispanic descent.

Republican Party mayoral candidate Joe Lhota and other critics warned that de Blasio's policies would lead wealthy taxpayers to leave the city (negatively affecting tax revenues) and jeopardize the drastic reduction in violent crime achieved in the city by the previous two administrations, but in November 2013 de Blasio won the mayoral race in a landslide, receiving almost three-quarters of the vote. He was the first Democrat to win the New York mayoral election in more than two decades. At his inauguration de Blasio was sworn in by former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

Barack Obama (By Michael Nelson)

Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States—becoming the first African American to serve in that office—on January 20, 2009.

The son of a white American mother and a black Kenyan father, Obama grew up in Hawaii. Leaving the state to attend college, he earned degrees from Columbia University and Harvard Law School. Obama worked as a community organizer in Chicago, where he met and married Michelle LaVaughn Robinson in 1992. Their two daughters, Malia Ann and Natasha (Sasha), were born in 1998 and 2001, respectively. Obama was elected to the Illinois state senate in 1996 and served there for eight years. In 2004, he was elected by a record majority to the US Senate from Illinois and, in February 2007, announced his candidacy for president. After winning a closely fought contest against New York Senator and former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic nomination, Obama handily defeated Senator John McCain of Arizona, the Republican nominee for president, in the general election.

When President Obama took office, he faced very significant challenges. The economy was officially in a recession, and the outgoing administration of George W. Bush had begun to implement a controversial "bail-out" package to try to help struggling financial institutions. In foreign affairs, the United States still had troops deployed in difficult conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During the first two years of his first term, President Obama was able to work with the Democratic-controlled Congress to improve the economy, pass health-care reform legislation, and withdraw most US troops from Iraq. After the Republicans won control of the House of Representatives in 2010, the president spent significant time and political effort negotiating, for

the most part unsuccessfully, with congressional Republicans about taxes, budgets, and the deficit. After winning reelection in 2012, Obama began his second term focused on securing legislation on immigration reform and gun control, neither of which he was able to achieve. When the Republicans won the Senate in 2014, Obama refocused on actions that he could take unilaterally, invoking his executive authority as president. In foreign policy, Obama concentrated during the second term on the Middle East and climate change.

Obama left the presidency, at age fifty-five, after his constitutionally limited two terms ended on January 20, 2017. He announced plans to remain in Washington, DC, until his younger daughter finished high school and, as a former president, to play a restrained but active role in public affairs. He also devoted energy to raising money and planning for the opening of the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Analysis

With the examples provide we can analyze political biographies as a way of teaching people about the lives of politicians, works, family, background and anything that relates to them. The main message that these examples share is that they provide important information about politicians and their important roles in society. These examples are really accurate because the biographies are easy to understand, and the important information stands out. These examples of political biographies share things in common such as the dates that a certain politician was elected and got to rule a city, state or country. All biographies include background information about their family and the place of birth and death. Lastly, political biographies also demonstrate the political party that the politician belongs to and their important contributions to the city. The audience that these examples are directed is to the public in general, and more for those who want to find out more about who a certain politician. For example, when there are presidential campaigns and people want to know better a certain politician they can read their biographies to understand more about them and identify the reasons for why such a candidate is going for a certain party. Throughout these examples there are some differences. This is because different authors include a little more information than others. Also, the organization is sometimes different between the examples. There is a style that they all share which is to include first the main information about the person they are writing about. That information is their complete name, place and year of birth, profession, and family background. Then the biographer

includes the main projects, roles that the character had during his life period. The examples are part of informative language.

Analysis of one example

I chose Martin Luther King Jr. biography. The producer of this biography is the Nobel Prize Organization, which is an organization that supports the goal of Nobel Foundation which is a foundation that keeps the will of Alfred Nobel for awarding such prizes to people who deserves them. The message of this biography is to point out the life of Martin Luther king Jr. so that people can learn about his life and why he is a famous person, and an outstanding activist which makes him to fall into the political category. This work is directed to anyone who wants to learn about the life of Martin Luther King Jr. There are constraints in this text by the developer in this case, Nobel Prize Organization states that in order to publish documents that contain information from their website the author should first get the permission to do so and include the proper citation for the information gathered from their website. This text is really important for our society in general because these types of genre helps us to learn more about people that have accomplish something really important in our city, country, or world. The concepts that are most used on this genre are important dates, names, and projects that involve in the life of the person whose biography is written. In my opinion a biography is really significant itself because it contains a lot of useful information that leaves us with the understanding of a person.

Own Example

Biography of Rafael Correa

Rafael Correa was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1963. Was the 95th President of the Republic of Ecuador for three consecutive periods, the first one from 2007-2011, the second from 2009-2013 and from 2013 to 2017. His political movement is PAIS (Patria Altiva I Soberana) which translated means Homeland Haughty and Sovereign. His father was Rafael Correa Icaza, born in the province of Los Rios in March 23rd of 1935 and died at the age of 60. Correa's mother was also born in the same province as his father, in September 1 of 1939. Rafel Correa has one brother, Fabricio Correa, and two sisters, Pierina and Bernarda Correa, who died at the age of 11 as a result of a drowning in a swimming pool in a condominium under the care of her other's family.

Education

Rafael Correa finish his primary and secondary studies in the Catholic School San Jose-La Salle, located in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Because of his outstanding grades Correa earned an scholarship to Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil (Catholic University of Santiago of Guayaquil). Which is a private institution of higher education, where he graduated in Economics in the year 1987. After some time, he earned another scholarship that allow him to get a master's degree in Economics in the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Although, through an academic exchange sponsored by Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Saint Francis University of Quito), Correa studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States, and earned his doctorate in 2001.

Political

Rafael Correa's political career started around 2005, as the Republic of Ecuador was passing through a difficult institutional crisis. During this year the president at that time *Lucio Gutierrez* was displaced from his role as president, by the Ecuadorian people mainly by indigenous people who were tired of his lies. As a result, the vice-president, *Alfredo Palacio*, took the place of president, who at the same year named Correa the Economy and Finance Minister. From there he gained inspiration to become a candidate for the future presidential elections under the political party *Alianza Pais*(Country Alliance). Correa started to gain popularity by giving speeches on the new way to improve the country and promising an end to corruption. Rafael Correa was elected as the president of the Republic of Ecuador after the elections of November 26 of 2006, obtaining a 56.67% of the votes.

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