

Patrina Ayamba

## Final Portfolio

Unit 1: education Narrative (Revised)

### My Genius

Being born and raised in Ghana, a country where education is not as accessible or guaranteed for everyone, I always felt privileged. My parents would often put pressure on me and my siblings to study hard, do well in school so that we can become something great later on in life. My Dad worked Hard as a nurse and made sure my siblings and I all went to a private school because he wanted to make sure we got the best education possible. As a young child I loved learning and the excitement I got when I was able to learn or understand something difficult drove me to constantly do better and want to learn even more. I was always at the top of my class in Ghana. I was always raising my hand to answer and ask questions and I was the student that other students came to when they needed help understanding what was thought in class. I loved the feeling and praise I received from my parents when I brought home my final exams and only having 85's and aboves in all my subjects. "My genius" my mother would often say, I acted like I didn't like when she called me that but truth be told I loved that name. It made me feel like I was seen and that all my hard work and efforts were not going to waste. When I moved to the US everything changed.

It was my first day of school in America. I was so excited to not only be going to school for the first time in America but also because this was my first day in 5th Grade. I woke up extra early to select which clothes I would wear and what hairstyle to do because I wanted to make a first good impression. I was already about a month and a week behind because the school year started early September and I arrived in the US in the middle of October. I was scared that I would be behind and it would be extremely hard to catch up , I later came to the hard realisation that I was right, catching up wasn't going to be easy. On my first day I was escorted to class by my homeroom teacher Miss Meany which is ironic because she was actually one of the nicest and most caring teachers I have ever had. She would comfort me when I felt distressed or she noticed I wasn't in a good place and she would always make sure I wasn't by myself or lonely. When I walked into the classroom for

the first time I couldn't help but admire the room. My homeroom was painted green and white. There were Halloween decorations all over the classroom because it was almost halloween. The student desks were positioned in groups of 4. The teacher's desk was at the corner of the classroom and the white board was in front. Although I had hoped that it wouldn't be so hard for me to catch up, I was wrong. I went from learning "Religious and moral education" which was my history class in Ghana to learning about Lewis and Clark and the westward expansion. I had absolutely no idea what was going on. I knew nothing about US history, only that Barack Obama was president at the time. I also knew that I would have to work twice as hard as everyone else if I wanted to catch up.

About two months into the school year my school had reached out to my mom and asked her to have me evaluated for learning disabilities. I was really behind compared to the other students, I never spoke in class, never spoke at all to anyone, I just really kept to myself so they assumed there was something wrong with me. My mom refused to have me tested because she knew there was nothing wrong with me and I was perfectly fine, I was just having a hard time adjusting to my new home away from home.

"She will never graduate, she's not smart enough" For a second I believed those words, sitting there by the corner of the room looking out the window watching as the cars passed by I overheard someone talking about me. It was almost time for my 5th grade graduation, my homeroom teacher Ms. Meany was handing out graduation caps and gowns to everyone in the class but me. I hadn't received mine yet because I came later during the year when school had already started and all those arrangements, sizing and data was collected for everyone but me. I would eventually get my cap and gown but just not the same time as everyone else. A girl sitting a couple of rows down from me whispered to her friend "she will never graduate, she's not smart enough". For a moment I sat still and my heart sunk, tears running down my eyes. I put my head on the table so no one would notice I was crying and I refused to let her see that her words affected me that much. When I first came to the US I had a thick accent, so people immediately knew I came from a foreign country and they would immediately assume I wasn't smart or didn't get a proper education. I was at the top of my class in Ghana and was among the top 5 students in my grade but when I came to the US I was often underestimated. When I spoke they were in shock because they didn't think I could speak English. When I presented my presentation on Great White sharks to the whole class reading the words so fast and fluently they nearly flew off the pages they were

astonished. “Can you believe she just came from Africa less than 3 months ago? Yet she can read and write so well, she’s amazing” my teacher Ms.Meany whispered to another teacher. I felt very offended by this statement but I know she didn’t mean it in a rude way, she was just a little oblivious they all were. But part of me liked that they underestimated me because I wanted to prove them wrong so badly and I did.

Countless hours spent after school with my teachers getting the help that I needed, and more hours spent with my mother at home who would tutor me in math because it was one of the subjects I struggled with most, I began to improve. Since I would often have a hard time with the homework, everyday when I got home my mom would tutor me and help me with my homework. I would often go to the library with my older sister and spend hours there studying. Eventually I started to improve and my teachers began to notice it too. My grades started to improve, I began getting more comfortable raising my hand to answer questions in class and I had started to feel very positive about the rest of the school year. I got my cap and gown, my grades were improving, I was finally catching up with everyone else and everything was looking up. I was looking forward to graduation, which was coming up quickly. Finally, the day had come! as I walked down the steps on the day of my graduation in my cap and gown to “Empire state of mind” by Alicia Keys I had the biggest smile on my face. Looking into the crowd and seeing my parents and older sisters and knowing how proud they were of me made it all worth it.

## Unit 2: Research Project (Not revised)

### Who was Mansa Musa and what was his impact on his kingdom and the world?



This research question was of interest to me because whenever I go on the Internet and search up “who was the richest person to ever walk the earth” the only name that has come up from when I first searched this up when I was 9 to recently when I searched this up again to see if it has changed, was Mansa Musa the king of the Mali empire in Africa around 1312 C.E to 1337 C.E he is often called “The King of kings.” He had an estimated net worth of 400 billion dollars and is also known as the richest king in the world. This topic really interests me and makes me want to talk more about it or bring more attention to it because Africa is seen as a continent that lacks a lot and is very poor but it was one of the only continents with so many riches and natural resources and the richest king and person to ever walk the earth was African. What I expect to find in my research is more of Mansa Musa’s Rise to power, how he was able to become the richest person to ever live and his impact on his kingdom and the world. what I will do if I find information that goes completely against what I had expected to find is that I will still write about it anyway because it is important to see different perspectives and point of views even if it is different from what I expected



John Kuroski. "How Mansa Musa Became The Richest Person In History". All That's Interesting. Published September/19/2021.  
<https://allthatsinteresting.com/mansa-musa>

**Summary:** "How Mansa Musa Became The Richest Person In History" by John Kuroski is an article that talks about Mansa Musa's Lasting Impact on his kingdom and all the things he did that set his empire up for success years after his death. Mansa Musa was not a greedy person that kept all that wealth to himself, instead he was a very generous emperor that would often give out so much gold that the value of gold would decrease. Aside from handing out gold to people that needed or simply just giving away gold because he had so much, he used his wealth to do much more. The article goes into detail on how Mansa Musa used his wealth to help his empire and help raise his empire as a whole. Mansa Musa was a strong advocate for education and Islamic education. During his reign he built a great number of mosques and universities in Mali. This later led to Timbuktu Mali becoming one of the most "Prominent cities in the Islamic world" (Kuroski).

#### Key Quotes:

"Ultimately, he used most of it to build a great number of mosques (legend says he built one every Friday during his reign), the most famous of which is the Djinguereber Mosque. He also commissioned several universities throughout the kingdom."

"While Mansa Musa was alive, his investment in Islamic education in Mali drew scores of Muslim scholars, poets, and artisans to his empire. They congregated in Timbuktu, which quickly became known as one of the most prominent cities in the Islamic world."

"In addition, Musa quite literally put himself, and his empire, on the map. His caravan during his Mecca pilgrimage had attracted so much attention that Europeans — who were thousands of miles away — heard about the trip."

#### Rhetorical analysis:

The author of this article is John Kuroski, the article was published by the "All things interesting digital publisher". The article was written on September of 2021. The reason why the author chose to write this article was because he wanted to educate more people about the life and legacy of Mansa Musa. This article is more directed to the Muslim population because it talks about Mansa Musa's impact on the Islamic religion in his empire and this later impacting other countries. The news of the mosques and universities he built spread to the far corners of the earth and this caused a wave of "Muslim scholars, poets, and artisans to his empire" causing Timbuktu Mali to become very well known for its abundance in culture and religion. The choice in tone and pictures the author used really helped draw in more attention from the audience. This is because the author had a very welcoming yet assertive tone that draws in the reader and makes them want to keep reading. The author also used a lot of cartoon images to depict the different topics he was discussing and this really helps the audience have a type of visual representation of what is going on, keeping them more engaged in the reading.

In "How Mansa Musa Became The Richest Person In History" John Kuroski writes, "Ultimately, he used most of it to build a great number of mosques (legend says he built one every Friday during his reign), the most famous of which is the Djinguereber Mosque. He also commissioned several universities throughout the kingdom." In short John Kuroski emphasizes the idea that Mansa Musa was a strong believer in Islamic education and saw the importance of having a place where people could come together and learn more about the Islamic religion and to also gain new found knowledge. Mansa Musa felt so strongly about this that he built so many mosques all around his empire during his reign. This further proves to me how great of an emperor Mansa Musa was. Not only was he generous and would hand out gold to anyone who needed, but he also brought people together through religion. He was a strong believer in education and religious education because he himself was a devout Muslim. He could have been selfish and kept all his wealth to himself and did as he pleased but instead he used his wealth to not only help people but to also help his empire as a whole by providing them easier access to education and religious education.

Richard Austin. "The Golden caravan". Published October 19th 2022 <https://richardaustinwriter.com/2020/10/19/the-golden-caravan-a-poem/>

**Summary :** "The Golden Caravan" by Richard Austin is a poem that dives into Mansa Musa's journey to Mecca. Mecca is the birthplace of prophet Muhammad, it is considered the spiritual center of Islam. All Muslims make the journey to Mecca a pilgrimage known as (Hajj) at least once in their lifetime. The poem goes into depth on Mansa Musa's pilgrimage, it talks about the thousands of camels he had by his side, his sixty thousand men marching by his side dressed in the finest clothing. Mansa Musa was a powerful king and he wanted that to be known all over the world. He did not ever hesitate to show his true wealth, to the extent that on his journey to Mecca each and every single camel he had would carry "Over 130kg of Gold"(Austin).

**Key Quotes:**

"Gold by the ton through foreign lands.  
As Mansa Musa makes his way,  
To holy Mecca day after day,  
Sixty thousand men they march,  
Hunger aches and lips they parch."

"Gold he sprinkles on every town,  
Enough to bring them crashing down,  
Leaving chaos in his wake,  
Generous but destructive mistake."

"Eyes look on around the globe,  
Fixed on this man in his golden robe,  
Mansa Musa; King of kings,  
Whose reign will pass as do all things."



**Rhetorical Analysis:**

The Author of this poem is Richard Austin. The Author's attitude towards the subject is very neutral not really positive or negative. I say this because while some of the stuff he said did portray Mansa Musa in a good light there were also certain stuff he said in the poem that didn't. In the poem he talked about Mansa Musa being generous and giving out a lot of gold in the countries and towns he passed, while this shows Mansa Musa in a good light, Richard also goes on to say that due to Mansa Musa giving out so much gold it was "enough to bring them crushing down"(Austin). This is because when he gave out so much gold the value of gold decreased and it ruined economies. This poem is for the general audience and anyone who wants to learn more about Mansa Musa's Journey to Hajj. This poem is a really good way for people who know nothing about Mansa Musa or his Journey to be able to gain some new insight on him. The occasion and purpose of this article was to educate people more on Mansa Musa's trip to Mecca. The genre of this poem is Historical because it talks about a Historical figure from the past. The tone of this poem is very direct and non-biased because the author was not leaning to one side and either trying to portray Mansa Musa in a bad or good way, but simply to educate us about the actual events that took place.

In "The Golden Caravan" Richard Austin writes "Gold he sprinkles on every town, enough to bring them crashing down, leaving chaos in his wake, generous but destructive mistake." What Austin references in this quote is one of the most talked about things Mansa Musa was known for. This quote talks about Mansa Musa making a "generous but destructive mistake". What Austin meant by this was while what he did came from a place of good intentions and good will, it ended up causing damage. While Mansa Musa did not intend for his good deed to become such a huge problem I still believe that he did a good thing. He was a generous emperor and he was helping people by giving out gold. He changed so many lives for the better because he chose to share his wealth instead of being greedy and keeping it all to himself. He gave out so much Gold in Cairo Egypt during his pilgrimage to Mecca that it almost ruined Egypt's economy. He didn't mean for that to happen and it wasn't his intention for that to happen. He was just a rich king who wanted to share his wealth with the rest of the world.



Jessica Smith. "Mansa Musa, one of the wealthiest people to ever live."  
Published: May 18th 2015.  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3YJMaL55TM&t=1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3YJMaL55TM&t=1s)

**Summary:** "Mansa Musa, one of the wealthiest people to ever live" narrated by Jessica Smith, is a TED talk video that talks about the impact Mansa Musa's Journey to Hajj had on his kingdom and Africa as a whole. Mansa Musa lived a lavish life, he was wealthy and never hesitated to remind people of his wealth. The video goes into depth on how all the things such as the thousands of camels and horses all carrying gold, thousands of soldiers, civilians and slaves all also carrying Gold and dressed in the finest clothes, made his journey heard all around the world. An encounter with Mansa Musa during his journey to Hajj would have been one nobody could ever forget or be able to keep quiet about. So the news of Mansa Musa began to spread to the far corners of the world. Soon everyone knew about Mansa Musa the African king of Mali with enormous wealth who almost destroyed Egypt's economy by giving away so much gold the price of gold became almost worthless. The video also talks about the "1375 Catalan Atlas" which was an important world map of medieval Europe that depicted Mansa Musa. He had become world known.

#### Key Quotes:

"He brought a caravan stretching as far as the eye can see... Chroniclers describe an entourage of tens of thousands of soldiers, civilians and slaves bearing Gold staffs and dressed in fine silks and many camels and horses bearing an abundance of gold bars."

"This journey reportedly took over a year, and by the time Mansa Musa returned tales of his amazing wealth had spread to the ports of the Mediterranean."

"Mali and its king were elevated to near legendary status, Cemented by their inclusion on the 1375 Catalan Atlas; one of the most important world maps of medieval Europe, it depicted the king holding a scepter and a gleaming golden nugget. Mansa Musa Had literally put his empire and himself on the map."

#### Rhetorical Analysis:

The narrator/ author of this video is Jessica Smith. The organization in which this video was created is TEDtalk. The audience of this video are mostly young kids because the video is depicted as a cartoon and teaches about Mansa Musa's journey to Hajj using cartoon drawings and images, so this mostly captures the attention of young teens and students because they are able to learn about Mansa Musa in a fun and exciting way. The choice in images and tone the author/ editors made was that they made this video very welcoming and entertaining to watch. Just from the cover of the video it already draws your attention to it because it is so colorful and detailed and makes you want to know more on what this video will be about. These choices in images and tone will really help further draw in a wide audience and keep them engaged. The purpose of creating this video was that the author/ narrator wanted to bring light to how Mansa Musa put his empire on the map and made it known all around the world. The genre of this video is Historical because it talks about a historical figure.

# Conclusion

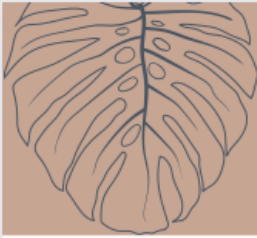
When I heard the name Mansa Musa what immediately would often come to mind was “Oh Mansa Musa he was the richest person to ever live” but he was so much more than his wealth and he also did so many great things with his wealth. Aside from being extremely wealthy, Mansa Musa was a devout Muslim. He wasn’t always muslim he converted to Islam in the early years of his reign. What surprised me the most during my research was Mansa Musa’s impact on his empire and the events that took place during his journey to hajj. Mansa Musa was a huge activist for education and islamic education, he wanted his people to be able to freely and openly learn about and practice the islamic religion. So during his reign he built some of the oldest mosque’s( still standing today) and universities all over his empire. This was surprising to me because I did not expect someone of his status and wealth to really be interested in religion like he was or even interested in the welfare and accessibility his people had to religious education because most of the other wealthy kings around this same time never did half of the things Mansa Musa did for his kingdom, they were greedy and selfish kings who wanted to keep all their wealth to themselves so I assumed Mansa Musa would be the same but I was proven wrong.

Mansa Musa’s journey to hajj can truly go down in history as one of the most iconic pilgrimages ever. On his pilgrimage, Mansa Musa brought with him Sixty thousand men all dressed in the finest silk, Horses and camels all carrying approximately 130 kg of gold and so much more. His 3 month stay in Cairo is most talked about when anyone mentions “Mansa Musa’s pilgrimage”. This is because during his 3 month stay he handed out so much Gold in Cairo that the value of Gold had tremendously decreased causing Egypt’s economy to severally plummet for the next 12-15 years. What I have learned is important because it has thought me not judge historical figures without getting the full story, because before this research project I had assumed that because Mansa Musa was immensely wealthy he would be greedy. The only reason I thought this way was because I noticed a pattern with a lot of kings an leaders in history being greedy and hungry for more power and wealth. But Mansa Musa was different he actually cared about his kingdom and his people, making sure they would be ok years after he was gone. It would be beneficial for young Muslim girls and boys to know about this information. It is important that they are educated on Mansa Musa’s impact of the Islamic religion in Africa being that he was one of the first emperors in Africa to build mosques and really care about islamic education, because he wanted future generations to have a place where they can come together, to learn and embrace the islamic religion.





## Unit 3 : ( Revised )



# A Heart Of Gold

Historical Context: Mansa Musa was a devout muslim who wanted to make the journey to mecca in order to fulfill his duty as a muslim. Making the pilgrimage to Hajj is an important rite of passage that all muslims must do at least once in their lifetime. It is the birthplace of prophet Muhammada and the holiest site in islam. On his Journey Mansa Musa did not travel alone. He was accompanied by thousands of elephants, horses , camelas, servants, soldiers and slaves all carrying tons of gold and dressed in the finest silk clothing. Each town that he passed, he would hand out Gold, so much that he ended up disrupting the economy of a lot of countries including egypt. During his stay at Egypt Mansa Musa Handed out so much Gold that the value of gold became almost worthless, this caused a lot of damage to egypt's economy.



**A Heart of Gold  
and pockets filled with Gold  
Journey to Mecca what will unfold?  
Make way as he comes behold!  
sixty thousand men he brought  
camels, horses, elephants distraught,  
carrying 18 tons of Gold they depart  
twelve thousand slaves in chains they marched  
Lips dry throats parched  
As the dry Sahara heat scorched  
Town after town they crossed  
pounds of Gold he lost  
But all for a good cause  
People coming in mobs  
Screaming & yelling because  
Mansa Musa "king of kings" calls  
Upon everyone behind closed doors  
In the halls  
& behind the walls  
"Come & this gold is Yours"  
In every town he lured,  
People asking for more  
he could not ignore  
their strident roars.  
So in every town, he poured  
More & more gold, it couldn't be ignored  
Crashing Egypt's economy, word spread abroad  
Soon Everyone knew the king adored.  
From the corners of his kingdom and far beyond  
Mansa Musa truly has shown  
He is a King with the heart of Gold.**

## **Artist statement:**

For as long as I can remember I have always been Fascinated by African history and culture. I loved to listen to African Folk tales and Folklore as a kid and I also loved learning about past African leaders. Out of all the many amazing and interesting historical African leaders I have learned about, the one that stood out to me the most was Mansa Musa the ruler of Mali during 1312 C.E . He is mostly known for his vast wealth, his famous pilgrimage to Mecca (Islams holiest city) and his contributions to his kingdom. He was a ruler that wanted to better his empire and his kingdom. During his reign he really focused on the idea of bettering the education system in his kingdom and also making islamic education more accessible. It was shocking to me that not a lot of people knew who Mansa Musa was, so I wanted to educate people about the life and legacy of Mansa Musa and his impact that lasted years after he was gone.

My main reason for making this project was because I wanted to share more about Mansa Musa's legacy . some-people only know Mansa Musa as the richest person to ever live or for his famous pilgrimage, but not a lot of people know the other things he did for his people and his empire. Mansa Musa was a devout muslim, and he felt that education and islamic education was very important which is why he took the measures that he did and built mosques all around his kingdom so that his people would have the accessibility that they needed. The audience that I wanted to direct this piece to is. mostly young adult muslim girls and boys of African decent because I wanted to educate them more on a ruler that shaped in islamic religion in his empire/kingdom. His actions paved the way for other African countries to take initiative to also make islamic religion more accessible.

The reason why I chose this genre is that I felt as though it was the best and most fun way to get my point across to my audience because my audience are young adults who would prefer a fun way of learning new Information. Creating a poem got my point across and allowed me to give more insight on who Mansa Musa was and his impact while still able to be creative. Most young adults lose interest very quickly or don't like to read things for a long time because they get bored. Which was why I decided to not create a poem that was overly long, but rather create one that had all the information I wanted it to have while also still rhyming and engaging the audience.

At the start of my project I had originally intended on doing a tiktok or a comic on Mansa Musa. I later realised that the comic wouldn't be such a good idea because with the amount of time that I had to complete this project and individually having to draw every image in the comic would have been very hectic and it would not have come out the way that I wanted because I would be rushing to complete it rather than focusing on the quality of the piece. I then decided to just do a Tiktok video because it is also a very good way to reach my audience since almost every teen or young adult uses tiktok. But during class I heard a student ask if we could do a poem for our project if we wanted to. Then it struck me! I

realised I wanted to do a poem because it would be a great way to test my creativity as a poet and I wanted to challenge myself on how well I could make this poem rhyme but also be able to input enough information all while trying to make sure it makes sense to the audience. Starting the poem was easy, it was a challenge, I had 3 different poems that I had started working on at the beginning but I was very confident in all 3 of them. so two days before the rough draft was due I started on the poem that I ended up submitting "A heart of Gold". This poem did take me some time to complete because I wanted to make sure that I pushed myself to see just how far I can take this poem and how far I could go with making this poem have qualities of a poem like rhyming and literary elements and devices.

Now that this project is done, I think my final unit 3 project turned out really great and exactly how I wanted it to turn out. My project definitely evolved as I went on because in the beginning I hadn't thought of doing a poem I was thinking of doing a video instead but I then fell in love with the idea of a poem and wanted to give it a shot and see it through. What I would have done differently given all the "time, money and expertise in the world" is that I would have liked to make my poem flow better. While I did my best to make it rhyme I feel like there were certain parts that just didn't flow together as much as I wanted it to. I am not a great poet but I do love writing poems and testing out my ability to write poems because it is a fun and also challenging way to test my ability to use literary devices, rhymes etc. what I am happiest about is actually being able to complete my poem and it having the structure that it does because there were a couple of times were I just wanted to take the easy way out and create a video instead but I decided to see this through. How I feel having done something like this as a college project is that I really loved the idea of giving students the freedom to choose a topic they are interested in, write a research paper on and also to create any project they wanted with the information they gathered from unit 2. It was a really fun way for us to test our creativity and I'm glad we were given the chance to do a project like this because I really enjoyed it.

## Final Reflection

During the start of this term I was very nervous because this was my first semester in college and I was scared because of the stories I heard about writing intensive courses. Over the years my writing has improved a lot but I was worried that it wouldn't be good enough or considered "college level writing". Coming from a different country especially at a young age where we didn't really write essays in the format essays are written in the US, it took a lot for me to catch up in writing. It took years of constant practice and extra help for me to learn to cite properly, quote properly, explain my evidence properly and what I always struggled with most introductions and conclusions. Over time I began to get better at these things and when I graduated from high school I knew my writing skills were at a good place but I was still worried it wouldn't be enough. This term has taught me a lot about myself as a writer because I did not expect to get the grades that I did on unit 1 and 2. I got really good grades for both projects and I am beyond proud of myself because I put a lot of time and effort into all my projects to make sure that I was pushing myself to be the best writer I could possibly be. This semester I learned that if I tried hard enough and put in the extra work my grades would reflect that and it did.

How I will use what I have learned this term and transfer the knowledge to other writing situations is that I will use what I have learned so far to continue to improve my writing. While I have come a long way and I am very proud of how far and how well I have done there is always room for improvement. So I plan to use these skills in other writing courses that I take and I also plan to improve these skills and continue to improve my writing.

The work I did early in the semester vs the work I'm doing now is very different because all the projects I did throughout this term were all different genres. I am glad that each project was in a different genre because it challenged my creativity and helped me explore new and fun forms of writing which really kept me excited and engaged in each project that we did in class. For the first project which was the education narrative, I had so many different ideas of things I wanted to write about because there were so many things that shaped my life and my education. But every time I thought about an event that had the biggest impact on my education all I could think of was my experiences when I first came to the US and that was what I decided to write my education narrative on. Aside from the struggles I faced education wise being an immigrant and knowing nothing about the US

education system, in my story I decided to also dive into a particular incident that really changed my perspective on things. The incident I talked about was when a student made a harsh comment about me, in my essay I wrote.. “She will never graduate, she’s not smart enough”For a second I believed those words, sitting there by the corner of the room looking out the window watching as the cars passed by I overheard someone talking about me.” This quote was really important for me to add into my writing because it had a huge impact on me and was a big turning point in my story because it caused me to want to do better and want to prove that student wrong and show her that I am much more than she says I am.

For unit 2 I had a lot of different ideas on what I wanted to do for my research project but in the end I had decided to do my project on Mansa Musa. I was always fascinated with African folktales and folklore and African history in general, so it amazed me that the richest person to ever walk the earth was African and not a lot of people even know who he was so I wanted to educate more people on the life and legacy of Mansa Musa. In my project I aimed to give facts on Mansa Musa’s life, his legacy, his famous pilgrimage to Mecca and what he did for his empire and kingdom in regards to education and islamic education. In my essay I wrote “The news of the mosques and universities he built spread to the far corners of the earth and this caused a wave of “Muslim scholars, poets, and artisans to his empire” causing Timbuktu Mali to become very well know for its abundance in culture and religion”. I felt the need to stress the impact he had on the islamic religion not only in his kingdom but in different parts of the world as well.

For my unit 3 project although I had a lot of different ideas on how I wanted to reach my target audience I ended up creating a poem. I had so much fun creating this poem even though there were a lot of times where I wanted to take the easy way out and create a video because I thought that would be easier but I’m glad I saw it through because I really put a lot into this poem. In the poem I talked about Mansa Musa’s pilgrimage to Mecca. I wanted to make sure I gave all the important details about this journey and make sure nothing was left out. I also wrote this poem to show what kind of leader Mansa Musa was, he was a selfless king who shared his wealth and didn't greedy keep it for himself. In my poem I stated “Town after town they crossed pounds of Gold he lost ,But all for a good cause People coming in mobs. Screaming & yelling because, Mansa Musa “king of kings” calls Upon everyone behind closed doors, In the halls,& behind the walls. “Come & this gold is Yours”. I wanted to further emphasise Mansa Musa’s generosity and how he chose to spend his wealth.

