

Author Profile Guidelines

Write a three-paragraph author profile on the author we are studying. Your author profile should be typed and follow the MLA format. Your essay should be written in the following format.

- Paragraph 1 should introduce the author and give a brief overview of his/her background: childhood, schooling, parents, etc.
- Paragraph 2 should discuss what influenced the author to write, either the piece we are studying or writing in general: social unrest, personal experience, etc. Be sure that you give detailed information about the social issues that influenced your author or the personal experience(s) that had an effect on your author.
- Paragraph 3 should show how the works of the author have influenced others, either in art, music, theology, or literature (or all of them!). You may include an example of a painting, drawing, etc. as long as you explain in your paper *how* this piece of art was influenced by your author and *what* this art is illustrating.

Each unit will contain links to resources where you may find some of this information. Be sure to check out these links and to locate other resources on your own. We try to stay away from Wikipedia; however, sometimes this is a good site in which to begin your research, then use it as a gateway to other sources.

Just a note on plagiarism: What is plagiarism?

(from *Public Opinion*, Volume 20)

Plagiarism is for a man to purloin another's writings and offer them to the public as his own. The very derivation of the word describes its character. It is from the Latin "plagium," the English equivalent of which is "kidnapping"; and a plagiarist is a kidnapper as respects the stealing, and a liar as respects the presentation of the stolen goods.

Plagiarism is frowned upon in any situation and should always be avoided, there is no situational ethics which condones this type of thievery. In most schools, plagiarism results in immediate dismissal. (Yes, it is that serious!)

You may use another's ideas and words as long as the original author is given proper credit and his words are marked with quotation marks or different font (see above).