

Mandela

A CCSS-linked activity

Cynthia McFadden, December 2013

Gathering background information: Read at least five accounts of the life of Nelson Mandela. Draw information from newspapers, television news or other well-documented accounts. Note and cite sources for details that you gather on Mandela's life.

Prompt: Blend the information you gather to create a presentation about Mandela's influence. Incorporate many subjects, such as to language arts, art, history and psychology. Choose digital or other presentation on one or more of the following:

- The people of South Africa
- The people of the world
- You as a student, learning more about Mandela

Note: When a world leader dies, first accounts pay tribute to the person. First stories about Mandela have focused primarily on the positive impact he had. In his autobiographies, Mandela focuses on his humanity (and imperfection), but current news stories offer less about his struggles and more about his model leadership.

Over time, some stories/columns will focus on significant relationships. Some writers will discuss the consequences of his choices and offer opinions about whether or not they agree with his choices.

As you read, describe a specific action/choice and then present different viewpoints, naming the person who offered the opinion and his/her reasons for the opinion. What evidence or support does each writer include? **OUTLINE** what you learn.

Think more! In his writing, do you find evidence that Mandela made decisions that he regretted later? What evidence did you find? Where did you find the evidence?

Through your research, you have learned about the principles that motivated Mandela. Do you think he'd have chosen differently in any situation, given what happened afterward? Explain why.

In any presentation, read his writing and view any broadcasts or recorded speeches. Aim for a balanced portrait of Mandela. Cite sources fully, according to your instructor's requirements.