

Writing Summaries Using Biography Mentor Texts

Name _____ Date _____

Mentor Text: *George Bellows: Painter with a Punch* by Robert Burleigh

I. Write an opposing view statement which encapsulates the preexisting attitudes, beliefs, or practices of society which this person challenged.

For centuries, most people believed that artists should focus upon what is beautiful and romantic, but one artist named George Bellows thought differently.

II. Summarize this person's main achievement in a single sentence that briefly captures who, what, where, when, why, and how. Remember: this single sentence can in no way detail every great act or event from this person's life, nor should it.

In the early 1900s, Bellows and other artists of New York City's "Ashcan School" began painting pictures that illustrated the gritty, ugly, and common scenes of the city in order to capture the powerful images and emotions of everyday life.

III. Return to the text to find textual evidence supporting your why and how facts in your second sentence. This sentence should identify the book and author as well.

According to author Robert Burleigh in the book *George Bellows: Painter with a Punch*, Bellows thought scenes of everyday life were beautiful and he was "determined to find them."

IV. In a final sentence, explain this person's legacy. What lasting contribution, new opportunity, or inspiration did they leave future generations?

These artists helped others dare to explore "bold, new subjects," while recording what life in New York City looked like one hundred years ago.

When complete, all four sentences should form a single paragraph.

encapsulate - to express in a summary or put in a short form

legacy - something handed down to future generations