

# Life Studies Essay

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## Overview

The Life Studies assignment asked you to choose three books that allow you to study the lives of people you find interesting. These people might be coaches, leaders in some field, historical figures, or people you respect. My hope is that you have learned more about the people you respect and learned lessons from their lives that you can apply to your own. Now it's time to write!

## Goals

This in-class essay has several goals. Specifically, you should:

- Establish a focus for your paper and each paragraph.
- Organize your ideas effectively to communicate them.
- Develop your ideas by providing examples and quotations, then explain how these relate to your main focus.
- Show that you read and understood the book you chose.
- Know how to properly format a bibliography for a book.

## Directions

Use the following guidelines to prepare to write your essay in class on Thursday:

- Write down and properly format the bibliographic information about your book (see *Writer's Inc.* if you need more information).
- Write an introduction that tells us:
  - who this person (or group) is that you read about
  - why you read about him or her (or them)
  - what this person (or group) is known for
  - why the person (or group) is important (not just to you, but to others)
- Identify the major challenges or obstacles this person (or group) faced during life or the time you read about. Describe and discuss these challenges or obstacles in separate paragraphs. Be sure you:
  - Establish a clear and effective focus in each paragraph

*Example:* Charles Schwab faced an obstacle that no one suspected and that is hard to believe: He could not read.
  - Provide examples from the book.
  - Explain how these examples relate to your main idea.
- Discuss the strategies this person (or group) used to overcome these challenges or obstacles. Be sure to include examples and to explain how these strategies helped them overcome the obstacles and eventually succeed.
- Write a concluding paragraph in which you identify and discuss those lessons you learned from this person's life and how those might relate to your own life now or in the future.