



## Theme: Different Perspective

- It is common to hear a story told from the same point of view. Engage the audience by telling the story of your change-maker from a different perspective! Choose a different account of the event and tell the story from an alternate point of view.

## Theme: Follow Your Convictions

- Recall a moment in which your change-maker felt a strong conviction about an issue that was happening to or around them. Describe the scene in vivid detail, with special attention to the senses. Connect that scene to the impact that issue had on society.

## Theme: Saving the Environment

- Write about a change-maker that has worked hard to save the environment or designed something to protect other from dangerous natural events like tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, and hurricanes.

## Theme: Adversity

- Think of an event in your change-maker's life that might have discouraged them from reaching their goals. How might their life have turned out differently if they had made different choices? How did they choose to overcome that event and keep going?

## Theme: Make It Personal

- Imagine yourself in a historical event surrounding your change-maker. What might your life have been like in that place and time? Would you have supported what that person was doing? What would their actions have looked like from your perspective?
- Tell the story of a person who has shaped your town and its culture. How did the activity of that person influence the way you grew up or live currently?



## WRITING IDEAS & PROMPTS

### TIPS AND INSPIRATION

- **Do your research.** You have the opportunity to create engaging, moving pieces that explore real history and the lives of people who have shaped it. At the center of the history you're exploring, there must be **facts**. If it's possible, refer to diaries, letters, articles, etc. for added authenticity. When telling the history of a person, event, or place, **research, research, research**. It's a good idea to look at a variety of different sources to make sure the information you're sharing is accurate.
- **Be creative.** You have some wiggle-room to experiment with your writing style. You might try describing a scene or place so vividly that your readers feel like they're experiencing it along with your subject. Or write in first person as you tell someone else's carefully researched story. Feel free to experiment with different ways to make your story interesting and give your readers a new perspective.
- **Embrace emotion.** In some nonfiction, such as in textbooks or news articles, it's important to avoid emotional qualities. One of the major differences when it comes to creative nonfiction is that writers can and should listen to their emotions and allow their feelings to affect their writing.

### WRITING EXERCISES

- Explore a scene or story by reimagining it from an alternate perspective. Write the event from the point of view of a passing bystander, another person close to the event, a pet, or even an inanimate object.
- The missing ingredient: What is one thing most people forget or overlook about a change-maker's life or historical event?
- Choose a location from your change-maker's life. Think about how they interacted with this setting and how it affected their path of activism, innovation, or creativity.
- Recall a scene in which your change-maker showed courage. Did they stand up against someone powerful? Or help someone when it was dangerous to do so? Or stay silent when it was the hardest but wisest thing to do?
- Every once in awhile, someone comes into our lives for a short while and fundamentally changes us. How has learning about and spending time with your change-maker changed you?