

BIOGRAPHICAL WRITING

Adapted from: Senior Text Types: A Writing Guide for Students 2nd Ed. by Elli Housden (Farr Books, published 2013)

Defining the genre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biographies and biographical profiles are a story of a person's life that is researched and written by other people.• Often they are written about famous or prominent people, though because it is a personal story, anyone can be the subject of biographical forms of writing.• The focus of a biography is typically the life achievements, accomplishments and experiences that have shaped an individual's life, as well as their goals and aspirations.• The role of the writer is predominantly to inform their audience about the subject's life. Subsequent purposes might be to entertain, inspire or persuade.
Organisation and Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depending on length, divided into chapters or sections.• Can be organised chronologically or thematically.• Significant events from the subject's life usually forms the content.
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal, factual language, with appropriate use of quotes.• Language might be moderated depending on the writer's purpose. For example, selective or subjective language might be used to suit purposes to engage/position readers.• Descriptive language is used to engage and emphasise aspects of the biography.• Written in third person in complete sentences.• Past tense is common, though can be altered to suit purpose.

BLURBS:

- Capture the reader's attention and encourages them to read the text
- Are short and concise summaries
- Spark interest in the story with key facts/information
- Provide glimpses of the story such as goals, challenges, origins and achievements.

Example biographical blurb:

(from: <https://abccommercial.com/contentsales/program/shark-girl>)

Madison Stewart is a young woman with a passion for a creature of the deep that strikes fear in the hearts of most people - sharks. She has been face to face with every kind of shark around the world, but at an early age she realised that if sharks were endangered, so was their habitat. So Madison waved goodbye to the carefree life of other teenagers and, armed with a video camera, set out to single-handedly fight the ignorance that surrounds these spectacular and misunderstood creatures. This is Madison's journey. One-of-a-kind and instantly engaging, free-spirited yet fully focused, youthfully idealistic yet down-to-earth; she is deadly serious about her life's mission.