

WHO I'M FROM

CHALLENGE

Produce something that showcases at least 5 individuals whose actions, beliefs, accomplishments or experiences are woven into your identity, whether you knew the individuals or not.

Let the audience know what it is that you embrace about each individual -- what it is that you most appreciate about the person. For instance:

I come from the courage of Mae Bertha Carter.

You have now identified a quality, but you have not fully explained how the individual ever demonstrated that quality. You need to deliver more information through your product. Example:

*I come from the courage of Mae Bertha Carter:
A sharecropping mama in the heart of a racist South --
Drew, Mississippi; Sunflower County --
Fed up with cotton fields
And full of dreams for her children,
She signed the "Freedom of Choice" papers,
Enrolled her sons and daughters in the all-white schools.
Death threats, loss of store credit, eviction...
Her bravery was "stayed on freedom"
And her heart on the promise of something better, of "Silver Rights" realized.
I come from the courage of Mae Bertha Carter.*

You may work alone or collaboratively. Each member of the team must contribute at least 5 different profiles. Therefore, if you have a team of 3 people, then your product must feature 15 different profiles.

You may design and create a final product of your own choosing. You just need to be sure that your audience will walk away saying, "They know who they come from" and "I just learned a whole lot."

At least 2 of the people you profile must have been important before 1995. The individuals may be well-known or not; local, national, or international; important racially, culturally, historically or personally. Just be careful to showcase a broad range of individuals. If your project only shows people from one specific background (i.e. 8 entertainers), then it may appear that your understanding of identity is narrow and limited.

TIPS FOR SELECTING YOUR PROFILES

1. Analyze yourself first. Identify your interests and the aspects of your life that are important to you.
 - i. Example: PRATHER
 - Art
 - Literature
 - Poetry
 - Baseball
 - History
 - Baltimore, MD
 - Education
 - Faith and religion
 - Civil Rights Movement
2. Pick an area of interest. Then conduct a exploratory search online.
 - i. Example: “INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT”
 - If you want to narrow your search -- to women, for instance -- then search for “influential women of the Civil Rights Movement.”
3. Begin reading about different people. When you find one that inspires you in some way, then begin taking notes about that person. Write down enough information that makes you feel like you understand the person, what he/she did, and why he/she was important.
 - i. Example: Mae Bertha Carter
 - African-American sharecropper; married to Matthew Carter; 13 children
 - Drew, Mississippi (Sunflower County)
 - Frustrated by hard life of sharecropping
 - Didn't want her kids to have to work in the cotton fields
 - Believed education was the way to a better life
 - Upset that the black schools of Drew were substandard, low-quality
 - 1965 - signed “Freedom of Choice” papers to enroll her kids in the all-white schools
 - Death threats, bottles thrown through house windows, loss of store credit, eviction notices
 - Faith in God and a belief in the power of love -- gave her courage
 - 1965-1968: Only black family to keep their kids in the all-white schools
 - 7 of MBC's 8 kids who desegregated the Drew schools went on to graduate from Ole Miss
 - Book written about Mrs. Carter: Silver Rights (by Constance Curry)
4. Move onto a new search. Find someone who inspires you. Take notes on a separate sheet of paper.
 - You should record enough information to fill an entire page *per person*.
5. Organize your content into a final product (poem, mural, speech, collage, commercial, film, etc.