

Literary Nonfiction

Objective

Students will differentiate points of view in a biography and autobiography.

Materials

- Two texts about the same person—a biography and an autobiography
- Literary Nonfiction handout

Overview

Provide explicit instruction with modeling before having students practice independently or in groups.

Activity

1. Distribute the texts and handout.
2. Review the terms at the top of the handout: point of view, biography, and autobiography.
3. Explain the directions on the handout and model explicitly for students how to find evidence in a text to support the point of view.
4. Have students practice the process by completing the handout. Provide scaffolding as needed.

Alternative Lesson Plan

Read the texts to students and divide the lesson over 3 days:

- Read the first text to students and have them complete its information on the handout the first day.
- Read the second text to students and have them complete its information on the handout the second day.
- Have students find the differences in the texts' points of view on the third day.

Adapted from Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. (2009). *Teacher reading academies*. Austin, TX: Author.

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Background Knowledge

- **Point of view:**

The narrator’s position in relation to the story.

- **Biography:**

An account of someone’s life written by someone else. Biographies are written in the *third-person* point of view.

- **Autobiography:**

An account of someone’s life written by that person. Autobiographies are written in the *first-person* point of view.

Directions

1. Read text 1.
2. Fill in the boxes for text 1 on the worksheet on the next page:
 - Title and author(s)
 - Who the text is about
 - Circle: biography or autobiography
 - Three pieces of evidence from the text that support the point of view
3. Read text 2.
4. Fill in the same boxes for text 2.
5. Write three differences between the authors’ points of view.

Text 1	Text 2
Title	Title
Author(s)	Author(s)
Person text is about	Person text is about
Biography (third person) or Autobiography (first person)	Biography (third person) or Autobiography (first person)
Evidence 1 of point of view	Evidence 1 of point of view
Evidence 2 of point of view	Evidence 2 of point of view
Evidence 3 of point of view	Evidence 3 of point of view

Differences between the points of view

1.

2.

3.