

Primary Research:

Powerful People over the Past Century

- Bill Gates- primary founder of Microsoft computers; presently working with his charitable foundation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which seeks to reduce inequity in the world
- Mother Teresa- a nun from India who built a start-up missionary community of 13 members to a global network of over 4,000 sisters who provide charity to the poorest of the poor
- Barack Obama- the 44th president of the United States, he was the first African American to serve as a US president; a graduate of Harvard Law School, he practiced civil rights law in Chicago prior to his presidency
- Margaret Thatcher- the first female prime minister of Europe and the only British prime minister to serve three consecutive terms, she worked to lower taxes and promoted the privatization of industry
- Steve Jobs- co-founder of Apple computers, he pioneered a series of revolutionary technologies; after being pushed out of the very company he founded, Jobs continued to work to revolutionize the way we live and communicate, eventually returning and revitalizing the Apple name, which has been ranked #1 among Fortune 500 companies.

- Eleanor Roosevelt- wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, she was the longest-serving First Lady, who changed the role by assuming active participation in American politics through her advocacy of numerous human rights issues
- Martin Luther King- leader of the Civil Rights movement, best known for using non-violent civil disobedience methods; at the time he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, he was the youngest recipient to date and pledged to donate his prize money to further the Civil Rights movement
- Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson- former first lady who supported the "war on poverty", the Headstart Program, and was active throughout her life in beautification projects, as well as women's rights issues; she worked to bring the natural world and the manmade world to harmony
- Mahatma Gandhi- leader of the Indian independence movement in British-ruled India, he employed non-violent civil disobedience that eventually led to India's freedom and inspired others around the world to lead by peaceful tactics
- Rosa Parks- referenced by the United States Congress as "the first lady of Civil Rights," her refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger led to significant efforts to end segregation in America

- Elon Musk- modern-day visionary who is currently redefining transportation, both in space with his company Space X which launched a commercial spacecraft in 2012, and on land with Tesla Motors, a company that is dedicated to manufacturing affordable electric cars
- Susan B. Anthony- president of the National Women Suffrage Association (founded in 1869), she was a women's rights activist who became a leading figure in the American women's voting rights movement
- Albert Einstein- physicist who developed the theory of relativity, one of the two pillars of modern physics; his fundamental laws of physics underlie all of our modern day life; his contributions are so significant, TIME magazine named him person of the 20th CENTURY
- Hilary Clinton- American politician who was the senator of New York at the time of the terrorist attack; she worked to secure \$20 billion to re-build New York City; she was the first American First Lady to win a public office seat, as well as the first woman in US history to become the presidential nominee of a major political party, losing by a narrow margin to current President, Donald Trump

- Jackie Robinson- first African American to play Major League Baseball, he was a vocal civil rights activist who opened the door of baseball to others; he is credited with saying "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."
- Rosalind Franklin- an English chemist who pioneered the use of x-ray diffraction and served a critical role in the discovery of DNA; her work was later used without her permission by two scientists who received the Nobel Prize for "their" work
- Cesar Chavez- union leader and labor organizer who dedicated his life to improving treatment, pay, and working conditions for farm workers by employing non-violent means to bring attention to the plight of farm workers
- Walt Disney - pioneer of cartoon films and creator of Disneyland, he became famous when he introduced Mickey Mouse in the first film with sound, *Steamboat Willie* (this came after Disney discovered that a New York distributor had stolen the rights to his previously created character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit)
- Theodore Seuss Giesel- cartoonist and writer who published over 60 books after his first book, *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, was rejected 27 times before it was finally published by Vanguard Press.

- Julia Child- TV chef and author, she adapted complex French cooking for everyday Americans with her groundbreaking cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, which has become a standard guide for the culinary community