

Assignment: Personality, character and impact on society.

I would like you to select a person whose values have impacted you. This individual may be iconic -- pictured on currency or postage stamps (or FBI list) -- or lesser known. (See John Kennedy Profiles in Courage, James Agee, "Letters to Father Fry" and/or, Peter Gibbon, A Call to Heroism for examples of individuals whose profound influence transcends their fame.) Do not fail to consider friends or relatives when you select your subject. The thrust of your research should be to stress the values this person epitomizes and has left you.

You may present your findings in a variety of ways. If you choose to write a paper, I would like you to craft four to five pages (double spaced, normal fonts and margins) and present your findings in a PowerPoint of ten slides or less. Please follow the posted rubrics for essay writing and PowerPoint presentations.

Other options include videos (see Kadena Coup – Google video-), original music and art and drama. If you opt for a non-verbal presentation, your time and effort should be commensurate with the effort needed to write the annotated paper I reference above. If you opt for one of these projects, please include a rubric for your work, and discuss the rubric with me as you create your project.

I encourage you to try to relate your findings to an aspect of Japanese life. Starting with Okinawa, local history is written in blood. Do you know the *himeuri* story or have you visited Peace Park in Itoman in Naha? Do you know about Ernie Pyle's death on Iejima? The heroism attendant with these events is inspiring. And then some. I invite you to explore these accounts.

As a guide line, I have posted a paper and the PowerPoint that I have written comparing Thomas Jefferson and the epic tale of the 47 ronin. I look forward to seeing the results of your labors. The completed projects are due by the end of the first quarter.

Good luck and please consult regularly with me during seminar. You may collaborate with others on this project.