Profile Project: Giving voice to others in community

In the This I Believe essay, you were asked to situate yourself within a community and notice how you took part in that community, establishing some sort of argument from within. For the profile project, you will be asked to still, situate yourself in a community, but look outward, beyond the self, and notice how others influence certain communities. 

6-8 pages

Your task: You are to write a researched essay profiling a figure in a community of your choice, while persuading your audience that your subject is important to that particular community. Your job is not to simply research a person and report on the findings, like a biography, but rather, relate their contributions to a given community, and how this influence has taken shape.

I expect you to:

Consider what you have learned by actively reading/listening to class readings (e.g. “Remembering Tupac’s Breakout Album, 20 Years Later”) and demonstrate your understanding of this genre.

Make an original and thoughtful argument about the person/group you are profiling.

Incorporate secondary research to support your claims. You must use at least 3 outside, reputable sources.

Avoid summarizing, but explain and describe (show, don’t tell); persuade.

Demonstrate an ability to utilize the means of persuasion in order to appeal to your audience.

Demonstrate global implications within this profile project—Yes, your person/group has an impact in a specific community, but what about outside communities? What can various audiences take away from your argument?

Utilize the rhetorical appeals effectively.

Address who this person/group is, why their work is/was important, and how it has shaped a given community.
Ask yourself the following questions to establish an argument within your narrative:

- Why do I think it’s important to persuade audiences about this person/group? Why should others care?
- What affect has this person/group had on certain communities?
- Who is my audience?
- In what ways did authors of other class readings establish an argument within this particular genre? How did they utilize the rhetorical appeals? What were their motivating moves?
- Do I have appropriate, reputable sources (at least 3) to support my argument?
- Am I following the Evaluation Criteria provided to me?

Format:
- 6-8 pages (typed)
- 12 pt. font
- Double Spaced
- Correct citations-MLA, APA, etc.
- Works Cited/Reference Page (at least 3 outside sources)

This essay is 15% of your final grade. While the first draft will not be graded, your efforts in drafting, revising, and participating in workshops will be considered when grading your final draft.

Tentative Schedule for Main Due Dates:

- **Tuesday February 18**  Profile Project first draft in google docs; peer review
- **Thursday February 20**  Intensive Review (5 candidates)
- **Tuesday February 25**  Profile Piece Final Draft (hardcopy)

“I hold that a strongly marked personality can influence descendants for generations.” — Beatrix Potter