The focus of this research paper will be to analyze one significant historical figure you have found interesting through your reading of the textbook. Your objective will be to choose a person and to analyze their impact on the world, specifically relating to Thomas Carlyle’s Great Man theory. The person that you choose must be from the time period of the class. If the person is mentioned in the book, then you can analyze them for your paper. According to The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, the Great Man Theory is an approach to history associated with the nineteenth-century Scottish historian Thomas Carlyle, who declared, “The history of the world is but the biography of great men.” Carlyle argued that heroes shape history through the vision of their intellect, the beauty of their art, the prowess of their leadership, and, most important, their divine inspiration. Carlyle’s theories have generally fallen out of fashion. Today the great man theory is out of favor. Most historians today believe that economic, societal, and technological factors are far more important to history than the decisions made by any individual. Your goal will be to pick one historical person and show how their life helps disprove The Great Man Theory. You will need to show the weaknesses of Carlyle's theory and show that history is a lot more complicated than he makes it out to be. This is not a biography, but an analysis of their life. After choosing someone in the textbook that you wish to research further, you will analyze their contributions to history. Do Great Men make great history, or do great events lead to great men? Helpful Websites: http://www.lycos.com/info/great man theory.html http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\_m1038/is\_n3\_v39/ai\_18348260 http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/carlyle/index.html <http://www.bartleby.com/65/ca/CarlyleT.html>

Some useful areas to examine are: 1. Background: A brief overview of the person's early life, educational background, family life, etc. Focus only on the areas that have influenced his/her views. 2. The World Scene: Investigate the time period. What were the problems facing this person's country, or the people within it? How much was this person shaped by the world around him? 3. Actions of the Historical Figure: What events were they a key part of? What decisions did they make (or not) that they are well-known for? How unique were these actions? 4. Impact: How does this person impact the world in terms domestic policy and on a global scale? What factors influenced the outcome? Would the world be different if this person had never lived? Your paper should be five to seven pages, typed, double-spaced, with normal margins and font. You have all semester to research, so make sure you find the best information for your paper. All information must be properly documented, MLA format. If you need help with MLA formatting, the on campus writing lab offers tutorials and there are numerous websites that show how to properly format a paper. You will be graded on how successful you are at conveying your ideas to me through this paper. To do this successfully, you need to write in an organized, coherent style. Use proper spelling and grammar. Late papers will be penalized 10 pts every day that is late. Note: Plagiarism is any work other than your own, handed in for credit. This is not a group project; it should be an individual effort, reflecting your own mastery of the material. In terms of other sources, for this class, plagiarism means copying three (3) or more words in a row from your source materials. (Avoid this problem by restating authors' phrases in one's own words). PLAGIARIZED ASSIGNMENTS WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF "0." You need to utilize a minimum of five sources, only two of which may be an internet source. The others must be books or journal articles. Wikipedia and other encyclopedias are not acceptable sources. My subject for this paper is Cyrus The Great. Basically a paper disproving the Great Man Theory in correlation with the individual. Research and show that this theory does not apply to this person, rather they had help from surrounding sources. 5-7 pages in length, 7 preferable. MLA format. 5 sources required only two of which may be an internet source. The others must be books or journal article