

MONUMENT: WORTHY OF MT. RUSHMORE

By Jane Feber

Mt. Rushmore is a fascinating piece of U.S. history. Take a little time to get students into the spirit of this project by explaining the significance of the mountain and the famous men carved into it. The website <http://www.nps.gov/moru/historyculture/why-these-four.htm> provides an explanation on why these men were chosen to be placed on the mountain.

This is a great research project that will allow teachers to meet the Common Core State Standard requiring students to “conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation” [Common Core State Standards College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing (2010)]. An article from ASCD EDge, *Will Common Core equal Common Practice?* by Garth McKinney states, “Another resource that we have turned to is *Creative Book Reports: Fun Projects with Rubrics for Fiction and Nonfiction* by Jane Feber, which we have used to create smaller nonfiction research projects for students to complete before some of our novel units on weather and the Civil War. I’ve also used this resource to create a final assessment on story elements for a Coming of Age novel study.”

For this brief research project, students will construct a reproduction of Mt. Rushmore, replacing the famous carved heads on the mountain with the heads of important characters from a selection read or with important people in the fields of science, history, music, television, sports, or politics.

Once students have decided whom they will place on their Mt. Rushmore, they will first need to copy or draw a likeness of each person’s head and place it on a Mt. Rushmore template. They will then need to research and write a brief summary telling who this person is, what his or her major accomplishment was, and why this accomplishment was significant. Once they have completed this task, students will neatly write or type their information and place it under each person’s likeness on their Mt. Rushmore template.

A grading rubric for this project can be found in *Creative Book Reports* by Jane Feber (2004).

Jane Feber is the author of:

Engage Striving Students in the Common Core Classroom,
2014, Capstone Professional

Student Engagement is FUNdamental: Building a Learning Community with Hands-on Activities, 2011, Capstone Professional

Active Word Play: Games and Activities That Build Vocabulary, 2008
Capstone Professional, 2008, Capstone Professional

Creative Book Reports: Fun Projects with Rubrics for Fiction and Nonfiction,
2004, Capstone Professional

**Engage Striving Students in the Common
Core Classroom** • 978-1-62521-510-9

2014, Capstone Professional \$24.95

CapstoneClassroom.com • phone: 888.262.6135

