



WRITE YOUR OWN *TEXAS ORIGINALS* SCRIPT

Developed in partnership with Houston Public Media, *Texas Originals* is a radio series profiling individuals who have had a profound influence upon Texas history and culture. *Texas Originals* episodes are broadcast on public radio stations throughout the state and available on the Humanities Texas [website](#) and on [iTunes](#).

After listening to and learning more about [Texas Originals](#), it's time to pick up your pen (or sit down at your computer) and write your own script!

GOAL:

This project will give you the opportunity not only to expand your knowledge of individuals who have shaped Texas history but also to develop your research, writing, and critical thinking skills.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Review several [Texas Originals](#) scripts on the Humanities Texas website. Keep in mind that *Texas Originals* is written for a general audience of radio listeners, so it's important that each script catches the listener's attention while clearly describing the importance and significance of the subject. As you review individual scripts, ask yourself:

- How does each script open?
- What information is immediately presented?
- How does the script catch the attention of the audience?
- How does the script ultimately describe the subject's significance in Texas and U.S. history?

Now, choose someone to write your own *Texas Originals* script about. You can select an individual Humanities Texas has already profiled and provide a different take on his or her life, career, and significance. Or you can choose someone else you feel is significant in Texas history: an artist or musician, a political or social leader, or a family member or role model you especially admire.

Write the script following the same rules our writers have to follow. A script can be no longer than 225 words, and it should be engaging, historically accurate, and provide a sense of the individual's significance. In addition to the script, select accompanying photos or primary source documents and additional resources related to your selected individual. You may also include a bibliography or links to online resources.

Remember: 225 words is not that long! You will need to be concise while helping readers and listeners understand your subject's life and significance.

Bonus: record your episode with your best radio voice!



REQUIRED COMPONENTS:

- Radio script, 225-word limit.
- Accompanying photos or primary source documents with a caption identifying the title, creator, and date of each. See the *Texas Originals* webpages for models.
- Additional resources, such as a selected bibliography and/or annotated links to online resources.
- A “works cited” page showing the sources consulted for the project.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Where should I begin my research?

Students should use reputable sources when researching their selected individual. The following sites are good places to start:

- [Portal to Texas History](#)
- [Handbook of Texas Online](#)
- [Bullock Museum Online Resources](#)

How do I write and format captions for the primary sources featured in my profile?

Captions should include: the title of the primary source, who created it, and the year it was created (e.g., *Thomas Jefferson* by Rembrandt Peale, 1800). See the *Texas Originals* webpages for models.

How do I follow MLA style when creating citations?

The [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) has helpful instructions for following MLA format when creating citations and an example of an MLA "works cited" page.