

## Grades 9–10 Playlist: Accounts in Different Mediums

*Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.7:*

- Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person’s life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

### Welcome

When famous leaders or activists make great changes in the world, people create biographies to tell their stories. Today, biographies can be printed books, online articles, or documentaries. These different **mediums**, or ways of communicating, emphasize different details about a person’s life. A printed biography could focus equally on someone’s personal life and political career while a documentary might only focus on his or her political career.

Because biographies vary in which details they discuss, it is beneficial to study multiple accounts and determine which aspects of the person’s life each account emphasizes. Studying multiple accounts helps minimize **bias**, or favoring one viewpoint over another.

### Review

#### Key Terms

- A **medium** is a way of communicating (e.g., print, video, or audio).
- **Bias** is favoring one viewpoint over another.

#### Watch!

Watch this video for an in-depth explanation of bias. Bias does not necessarily mean having a negative viewpoint. It means focusing on certain information while intentionally or unintentionally leaving out other information.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq3tpckKjd8>

### Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn and practice how to:

- compare different accounts of the same person or subject.
- identify which details each account emphasizes.
- describe the value of studying different accounts of the same person or subject.

### Exploring the Standard

Susan B. Anthony is best known as a leader of the women’s suffrage movement, which aimed to grant women the right to vote in the United States. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts. For most of her life, she dedicated all of her efforts to women’s rights and the abolitionist movement. She traveled the country, organized



meetings, and spoke to both politicians and the public about women’s rights and ending slavery. Although she never saw women gain the right to vote in her lifetime, all of her efforts eventually led to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, which grants all U.S. women the right to vote.

Because Anthony was such an influential figure, many people have written biographies or made documentaries about her. Some accounts are longer and more detailed than others, but they all aim to preserve and explain Susan B. Anthony’s life and work.

### Hint!

When studying different accounts of the same person or event, pay attention to anything one version says that the other leaves out.

### Example 1

#### Watch!

This short video about Susan B. Anthony provides a brief overview of her life and her activist work. Which details and events does the video focus on?

- <https://www.opened.com/video/u1tv-profile-of-a-giant-susan-b-anthony/113989>

Now, read this excerpt from the biography *Susan B. Anthony: Rebel, Crusader, Humanitarian*. Compare and contrast the video biography with the text version.

<sup>1</sup>Susan was distrustful of political parties, for they eventually yielded to expediency, no matter how high their purpose at the start. Her ideal was the Garrisonian doctrine, “No Union with Slaveholders” and “Immediate Unconditional Emancipation,” which courageously faced the “whole question” of slavery. There was no compromise among Garrisonians.

...

<sup>2</sup>With the burning issue of slavery now uppermost in her mind, she began seriously to reconsider the offer she had received from the American Antislavery Society, shortly after her visit to Boston in 1855, to act as their agent in central and western New York. Unable to accept at that time because she was committed to her woman’s rights program, she had nevertheless felt highly honored that she had been chosen. Still hesitating a little, she wrote Lucy Stone, wanting reassurance that no woman’s rights work demanded immediate attention. “They talk of sending two companies of Lecturers into this state,” she wrote Lucy, “wish me to lay out the route of each one and accompany one. They seem to think me possessed of a vast amount of executive ability. I shrink from going into Conventions where speaking is expected of me.... I know they want me to help about finance and that part I like and am good for nothing else.”

...

