

Kansas Chautauqua

The Chautauqua movement sought to bring learning, culture, and entertainment to the small towns and villages of America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Prominent personalities gave speeches on religious, political, and scientific topics. Eventually, singing groups, oompah bands, theatrical presentations, and magic became the emphasis of the Chautauqua. The Chautauqua gatherings became a blend of country fair and revival meeting. Following WWI, the availability of automobiles, radio, and motion pictures brought an end to the Chautauqua movement.

TASK: A public television station in our area is spearheading a campaign to involve students in developing a series of Chautauqua presentations about people of Kansas for a documentary entitled: *Kansas Through the Eyes of Youth*. You have been asked to develop a 3-5 minute Chautauqua presentation as a well-known Kansan. You will research and write a biographical sketch of the chosen person, develop your speech, and come up with an appropriate costume that would have been worn by the Kansan you chose.

AUDIENCE: students at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

PURPOSE: To help yourself and SFA students learn about Kansans who have helped create the History of Kansas.

Chautauqua Oral presentation rubric

Element Assessed	pts. possible	pts. earned
Speaks loudly, clearly, and enthusiastically	20	_____
Evenly paced (not too fast or slow)	10	_____
Makes eye contact	15	_____
Appropriate costume	15	_____
Presents accurate information	20	_____
Presentations is organized, with a beginning, middle, and end	10	_____
Speaker involves the audience	5	_____
Appropriate length (3-5 min.)	5	_____
Total pts. possible	100	_____