

Yeshiva of Greater Washington Boys Division

GADOL PROJECT FOR INCOMING EIGHTH-GRADERS

Before you begin to read about your Gadol, please review the instructions below.

Then, as you read, be prepared to record and/or mark in your book (with post-it notes) the information needed for the tasks below.

This work is due on the first day of school. You must also plan to bring your Gadol book to class every day for two weeks. We will work in class and in the computer lab on converting the information gathered below into full-color, three-fold brochures. You will also present an oral report on your material to your classmates.

Strive to make a positive impression with this, your first assignment of the year.

1. Create a timeline of the Gadol's life, from birth to death. You must include a minimum of twelve items, among them his birth and death.
2. On a map (photocopy, download, or draw it) identify the places where key events in the Gadol's life took place.
3. Please list four strong adjectives that describe the Gadol. For each adjective, provide an example from the Gadol's life that specifically demonstrates the quality described by the adjective. The better the adjectives, the more your Gadol will seem like a real individual and not just a vague figure.

ADJECTIVE: Selfless

EXAMPLE: He often gave his overcoat, scarf, and other personal possessions to those around him whose needs were more acute. Sometimes his students observed him walking briskly home on winter evenings, with only a threadbare jacket.

ADJECTIVE: Tireless

EXAMPLE: According to his friends and family, he rarely slept for more than four hours but never showed any signs of irritability or weariness.

NOTE: Do **NOT** use the adjectives "great" or "nice" or "good." They do not really tell your reader anything. Force yourself to select adjectives that reveal a particular aspect of the man's character.

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4. Identify the Gadol's major accomplishments. (This is not the same as #3. Here, you are recording his achievements: what he did as a teacher, scholar, leader, etc.)
5. Identify two anecdotes (stories) about the Gadol that left a strong and favorable impression on you. Mark the pages in the book with a sticky note or paper clip, for easy reference. These anecdotes can be funny, sad, dramatic, amazing, inspiring, surprising—whatever really jumps out for you personally. Rewrite the stories in your own words, noting the pages in the book from which the information comes.

CHECKLIST FOR FIRST DAY OF SECULAR CLASSES:

- ___ Timeline
- ___ Map
- ___ 4 specific adjectives with explanation
- ___ List of major accomplishments
- ___ 2 anecdotes

GOOD LUCK!