

Famous African Nova Scotians Research Paper

Exploring the Legacy of African Heritage in Nova Scotia:

African Heritage Month, celebrated annually in February, provides an opportunity to recognize and honour the significant contributions of African Canadians, particularly those in Nova Scotia. As one of the earliest provinces in Canada to receive African immigrants, Nova Scotia has a rich history of African culture, resilience, and community development. This project will explore the unique history and cultural heritage of African Canadians in Nova Scotia, focusing on their contributions, and continued influence on the province's society and culture.

Research Questions:

1. Who are some notable African Nova Scotians who have made significant contributions to the province's history and culture?
2. How has African heritage influenced the social, cultural, and/or economic development of Nova Scotia?
3. What are some of the challenges African Nova Scotians continue to face today, and how do they work to preserve and promote their heritage?

Project Objective:

This project involves researching and writing a five-paragraph essay about a notable African Nova Scotian who has made significant contributions to the province, Canada, and beyond. The essay should highlight their achievements, impact, and importance within the context of Nova Scotia's history and the larger African Canadian experience. Your essay must include an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

The five-paragraph essay on your African Nova Scotian must meet the following criteria:

1. An introduction including a "*Hook*". Start with an interesting fact, quote, or statistic about your person to draw in your reader. You must also include detailed background information.
2. Their accomplishments/achievements, as well as their struggles/challenges.
3. Why the person is notable, and their influence on Nova Scotia.
4. Why you chose the person, and their impact on you.
5. A conclusion.

Possible people to choose from:

Activists:

Carrie Best, journalist and social activist

Viola Desmond, businesswoman and civil rights advocate

Burnley "Rocky" Jones, political activist

El Jones, activist

Joan Jones, political activist, businesswoman

Athletes:

Kirk Johnson, boxer

Rocky Johnson, wrestler, father of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

David Downey, boxer

Ray Downey, boxer

Pokey Reddick, hockey player

Artists:

Keonte Beals, R&B musician

Walter Borden, actor

George Boyd, playwright/journalist

George Elliott Clarke, poet and playwright

Sterling Jarvis, singer and actor

Politicians:

Wanda Thomas Bernard, Canadian Senator

Mayann Francis, first black woman Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

Daurene Lewis, first black woman mayor in Canada; recipient of Order of Canada

Donald Oliver, first black man to have a seat in the Senate; recipient of Order of Canada

Calvin Ruck, recipient of Order of Canada

Veterans:

William Hall, Victoria Cross recipient

Benjamin Jackson, sailor and Civil War soldier

Jeremiah Jones, World War I soldier

Joseph B. Noil, sailor and Medal of Honor recipient

Isaac Phills, World War I soldier and Order of Canada recipient

****You may choose a different person for your paper, but please make sure they meet the necessary requirements of being from Nova Scotia and of African descent.****

Five-Paragraph Essay Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Introduction	Clear, engaging hook; effectively sets up the essay's direction; and provides detailed background information.	Clear introduction, but one that is less engaging or slightly unclear; background information is present, but lacking in detail.	Introduction is present, but lacks clarity or relevance to the essay's main point; missing a hook; background information is limited.	Introduction is weak, unclear, or missing a hook; background information is very limited.
Organization & Structure	Well-organized with clear, logical flow between paragraphs; smooth transitions; each paragraph effectively supports the required criteria.	Well-organized with some minor issues in flow or transitions. All paragraphs generally support the required criteria.	Organization is somewhat unclear; some paragraphs lack focus or relevance to the required criteria.	Disorganized; weak or missing transitions; paragraphs do not support the required criteria effectively.
Content & Development	Strong, well-developed arguments with clear evidence or examples; deeply explores the topic.	Clear arguments with adequate examples; development of ideas is sufficient.	Arguments are somewhat weak or underdeveloped; lacking sufficient examples or explanation.	Weak or unclear arguments; insufficient examples or details to support the required elements.
Conclusion	Clear and strong conclusion; effectively summarizes key points; leaves a lasting impression.	Clear conclusion; summarizes key points, but lacks a strong ending.	Conclusion is weak or vague; summarizes key points ineffectively.	Conclusion is missing, unclear, or does not effectively summarize the essay.
Grammar & Mechanics	Virtually no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation; fluent writing style.	A few minor errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation; clear and understandable writing.	Some errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation; slightly distracting, but still readable.	Frequent errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation; hard to follow.