



My Historical Broadway Show, Lesson Five

Level: Grades 7-12

Lin Manuel Miranda, the Mastermind behind the Broadway smash hit Hamilton was inspired to write the play after reading historian Ron Chernow's book about Alexander Hamilton. Chernow's research included more than 22,000 pages of materials which included lots of letters written by Hamilton. Over the past several days, you have looked at letters by George Washington and John Adams written to family members during the Revolutionary War. You also looked at letters written by Alexander Biddle and Ulysses S. Grant written to their loved ones during the Civil War. It wasn't 22,000 pages of material but it's still a good start!

Now we'd like you to channel your inner Lin Manuel Miranda and choose one person from the five letters you read and make that person the star of your own historical Broadway show. You can choose to base your show on the writer of one of the letters or the recipient of the letter. You can use the following questions to get started.

1. Who is your person?
2. Why did you choose this person?
3. What's the main story you want to tell/point you want to get across to your audience?
4. What's the title of your show?
5. Is there additional historical research besides the Rosenbach letters that you need to tell your story? Do those letters exist in a library someplace? See if you can find them online.

The Rosenbach would love to see what you create! Please feel free to share it with me, Emilie Parker at eparker@rosenbach.org.

