

Frank Sinatra: The Blueprint for Success & Legacy

Grade Level: 9-12

Time: ~20 minutes

Objective:

Students will analyze Frank Sinatra’s impact on music, entertainment, and cultural identity while exploring how public figures shape their own legacy.

NJSLS Alignment:

- **English Language Arts:** RI.9-12.2 (Determine central ideas and analyze development)
 - **Social Studies:** 6.1.12.C.16 (Examine cultural contributions of influential figures)
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Step 1: Meet Frank Sinatra (5 min)

Frank Sinatra wasn’t just a singer—he was a **cultural icon** who changed entertainment. He pioneered the **concept of the modern celebrity**, using music, film, and personality to build his brand.

 **Fun Fact:**

Sinatra refused to perform in clubs that **discriminated against Black artists**, helping break racial barriers in entertainment. How did this contribute to the expansion of music and impact for all artists?

 **Quick Question:**

What makes an entertainer **iconic**? Is it talent, personality, influence, or something else?

Step 2: Legacy & Impact Challenge (10 min)

Your Challenge:

- Listen to (or read the lyrics of) “*My Way*.”
- Analyze a key lyric. What does it say about Sinatra’s approach to life?
- Write a short essay (5-6 sentences) about a modern figure who, like Sinatra, built a legacy **on their own terms**.

 **Think About:**

- How do artists today shape their **public image**?
 - What does it mean to have a **lasting impact** on culture?
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Step 3: Be Inspired! (5 min)

Sinatra was successful because he **took risks, stayed true to himself, and kept evolving.**

 **Write long about:**

What is **one way** you can create your own **personal legacy**? What do you want to be known for?

 **Want to learn more about legendary New Jersey icons?**

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