

Formal Essay Prompt

We know very little about the life of this Shoshone woman, Sacagawea, except for what is found in the documentation of her year-and-a-half-long journey with Lewis and Clark. This documentation is one of the only accounts from the 1800s that gives us a glimpse into the life of a Native American woman. Therefore, Sacagawea’s courage, strength, and independence now serve as symbols of the Native American woman.

Since Sacagawea’s death, people all over the United States have given honor to her life and her name. In 2000, the United States Mint issued the Sacagawea Dollar coin, which depicts Sacagawea and her son, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, on its face. Several rivers and mountain peaks have been named after her, as has a caldera (a volcanic crater) on the planet Venus. Books have been written, movies have been produced, and sculptures have been erected—all with the hope of bringing honor to her strength of character.

Do you think Sacagawea is deserving of these honors?

Honoring Sacagawea

(Introduction: Paragraph 1)

Throughout Sacagawea’s journey with Lewis and Clark, she experienced many hardships. In the face of challenge, Sacagawea showed strength of character. Sacagawea proved she was _____, _____, and _____.

I think she is deserving of many honors because her life continues to have meaning for us today. Her life teaches us _____

(Conclusion: Paragraph 5)

I think it is clear that Sacagawea deserves many honors, such as _____
and _____. Her strength of
character teaches us _____
_____. If I could meet
Sacagawea, I would tell her/ask her _____

_____.