



Research Guide

Introduction

This research guide will help you begin your research for the Juneteenth Essay Contest hosted by #BlackInPhysics in collaboration with the American Institute of Physics and Michigan State University.

The History and Library staff at the American Institute of Physics is available to help you! For further research assistance and/or questions about anything in this guide, please contact us at any time at nbl@aip.org.

We are also offering [live drop-in text chat sessions](#) for one-on-one help on **Thursday, April 28 from 4:00-6:00pm EDT** and **Monday, May 16 from 4:00-6:00pm EDT**. No need to come at the beginning or stay the whole time for these sessions; come and go as your schedule permits. All you need for these instant message-style sessions is Internet access.

There are 3 sections to this guide (click each title to navigate directly to that part of the guide):

[Research Tips](#): Suggestions to help as you gather information and sources for your essay

[General resources](#): A list of some sources we recommend you start with

[Individual Resources](#): Links to sources about individual people you may want to write about

Research Tips

It's always more fun to work on a project when you are interested in a topic. Follow your interests and your instincts as you consider your topic. Keep track of your research, even if you don't end up using it. We like to stash ideas, links, and text in a [Google doc](#), as it will autosave.

Starting off!

- If you already know which physicist you will write about, great! See the "Search tips for individual physicists" below and check to see if we have a resource for them under ["Individual Resources"](#)
- If you aren't sure who you will write about yet, we recommend starting your research with ["General Resources"](#)

Search tips for individual physicists


- In addition to the Internet, try looking in your school library and your public library to see what they might have on your subject
 - Try a library catalog search for your research subject name or ask your librarian for help
- Search for their name on Google news: <https://news.google.com/topstories?hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en>
- Search for their name on Google books: <https://books.google.com/?hl=en>
- Search their affiliated university or college news sources: alumni magazines, college newspapers, etc.
- Search for their personal or professional website or homepage
- If you encounter a lot of people with similarly spelled names while you search, try putting quotations around your name or other search terms to narrow down your results.
 - Instead of searching for: **Warren E. Henry**
Try searching for: **"Warren E. Henry"**
- If your individual has a common first or last name, you can also try adding additional search terms to narrow down your results.
 - Try searching for: **Warren Henry physics**
Or search for: **Warren Henry Howard University physics**
- If the physicist already has a Wikipedia page, take a look at the sources it includes

Citations

- Use your preferred [citation style](#), as noted on the [contest page](#). We recommend using whatever you usually use for school. We will give examples for MLA format.

- For [MLA format](#), the last page of your paper is a Works Cited page and you will use parenthetical citations in the body of your paper (more about [parenthetical citations](#)).
 - [MLA specific guide](#)
 - [MLA Format Cheat Sheet](#)
- Special case: many of the resources listed in the Individual Resources section of this guide are oral histories from the Niels Bohr Library & Archives
 - For these, simply click on the gray “Preferred Citation” bar and copy the text into your Works Cited page/Bibliography/Reference list
 - Example for [Warren W. Buck](#)’s oral history:

ORAL HISTORIES



Interviewed by: David Zierler

Interview date: March 2, 2021

Location: Video conference

Credit: The College of William and Mary [See catalog record for this interview.](#)

▶ USAGE INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

▼ PREFERRED CITATION

In footnotes or endnotes please cite AIP interviews like this:

Interview of Warren W. Buck by David Zierler on March 2, 2021,
 Niels Bohr Library & Archives, American Institute of Physics,
 College Park, MD USA,
www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/47040

For multiple citations, "AIP" is the preferred abbreviation for the location.

- Text:

Interview of Warren W. Buck by David Zierler on March 2, 2021,
 Niels Bohr Library & Archives, American Institute of Physics,
 College Park, MD USA,
www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/47040

General resources

In addition to the Internet, try looking in your school library and your public library to see what they might have. Try a library catalog search for “Black physicists” or “African American physicists” or ask your librarian for help.

Here are other places where you can start your research:

- Black in Physics Essay series published on *Physics Today*:
 - 2020: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.4.20201026a/full/>
 - 2021: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.4.20211025a/full/>
- *Physics Today* Q&A with Bria Andrews, Shawn Muslim, John Johnson, Dara Norman, Sekazi Mtingwa: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.5.9036/full/>
- *Physics Today* Q&A with Carl Fields, Marcelle Soares-Santos, Sekazi Mtingwa, Quinton Williams, Farrah Simpson, Kétévi Assamagan, Jessica Esquivel, James Stith, Alvine Kamaha, Philip Phillips, Charles McGruder, Chima McGruder, Clifford Johnson, Elaine Lalanne: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.4.20201022a/full/>
- Members of the National Society of Black Physicists Wikipedia list: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Members_of_the_National_Society_of_Black_Physicists
- National Society of Black Physicists Black History Month Profiles: <https://nsbp.org/page/bhmprofiles>
- National Society of Black Physicists leadership: <https://nsbp.org/page/officers>
- Database of African American woman physicists: <https://aawip.com/aawip-members/>
 - *Physics Today* article about the database: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.3.20190529a/full/>
- The Ronald E. Mickens collection on African-American Physicists, circa 1950-2008
 - *The African American Presence in Physics* by Ronald Mickens: https://radar.auctr.edu/islandora/object/cau.ir%3A1999_mickens_ronald_e
 - Ronald E. Mickens Image Collection: <https://repository.aip.org/islandora/object/nbla%3A287940>
 - ¹Ronald E. Mickens Collection finding aid: <https://history.aip.org/ead/20120385.html>
- *African American Firsts in Science & Technology* by Raymond Webster: https://openlibrary.org/works/OL8573073W/African_American_Firsts_in_Science_Technology?edition=africanamericanf0000webs

¹ This collection is not yet digitized, but the names and links may be useful. Please contact us at nbl@aip.org if you wish to use sources in this collection that are not digitally available.

Individual Resources

- Adkins, Rutherford Hamlet
 - Physics Today obituary: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1063/1.882461>
- Basri, Gibor
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/gibor-basri-41>
- Bouchet, Edward Alexander
 - *Physics Today* article: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/pt.6.6.20170915a/full/>
 - University of Michigan Bouchet Honor Society biography: <https://rackham.umich.edu/rackham-life/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/bouchet/biography/>
- Bragg, R. H. (Robert H.)
 - Oral history: <https://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/roho/ucb/text/BraggBook.pdf>
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/robert-bragg-41>
- Branson, Herman
 - *Physics Today* article: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1063/1.3048474>
 - *Physics Today* biography: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/pt.6.6.20170814a/full/>
 - American Crystallographic Association biography: <https://history.americalcrystallography.org/h-branson>
- Buck, Warren
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/47040>
- Carruthers, George
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/32485>
- Delfyett, Peter
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/45433>
- Epps, Thomas III
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/45132>
- Gates, Sylvester James Jr.
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/46941>
- Gonzalez, Anjelica
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/46923>
- Hammond, Paula
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/46733>
- Hammonds, Evelyn
 - AIP Interview: <https://youtu.be/m6AjOk4O8gY>

- Henry, Warren E.
 - *Physics Today* obituary: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/full/10.1063/1.1510294>
- Imes, Elmer:
 - *Physics Today* article: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/full/10.1063/PT.3.4042>
- Jackson, Shirley Ann
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/45276>
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/shirley-ann-jackson-41>
- Johnson, Anthony
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/anthony-johnson>
- Johnson, Clifford V. (Clifford Victor)
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/clifford-johnson-41>
- Johnson, Joseph Andrew III
 - *Physics Today* article: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.4o.20170728a/full/>
- Jones, Sean
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/47045>
- Lawson, James Raymond
 - *Physics Today* article: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1063/1.881945>
- Mason, Nadya
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/44800>
- Massey, Walter
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/45066>
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/walter-e-massey-39>
- McGuire, Stephen
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/45283>
- McNair, Ron
 - *In the Spirit of Ronald E. McNair* by Carl S. McNair with H. Michael Brewer: <https://archive.org/details/inspiritofronald0000mcna/page/6/mode/2up?q=black+physicist>
- McNeese, Marta Dark
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/45108>

- Mickens, Ronald E.
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/ronald-mickens-41>
- Milligan, Dolphus
 - *Physics Today* obituary: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/1.3128477>
 - *Physics Today* obituary of colleague Marilyn Esther Jacox which discusses Milligan: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/full/10.1063/PT.3.2391>
- Moore, Willie Hobbs
 - Center for History of Physics at AIP Handout: <https://www.aip.org/sites/default/files/history/files/AIP-Hobbs-Jackson-Handout.pdf>
- Morrison, Harold (Harry) Lee
 - *Physics Today* obituary: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/full/10.1063/1.1510296>
- Mtingwa, Sekazi
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/44300>
- Neal, Homer Alfred Jr.
 - *Physics Today* obituary: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/full/10.1063/PT.3.4076>
- Peery, Benjamin
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/33698>
- Phillips, Philip
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/46899>
- Porter, Tyrone
 - Oral histories: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/44893-1>
<https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/44893-2>
- Prescod-Weinstein, Chanda
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/45004>
- Prosper, Harrison:
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/46382>
- Quick, Lynnae
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/45340-1>
- Ramirez, Ainissa
 - AIP Interview: <https://youtu.be/s7wxpsg8E5s>
 - Interview for the Center for History of Physics Newsletter: https://www.aip.org/sites/default/files/history/files/newsletter-pdf/v52n1_2020-FINAL.pdf

- Rockward, Willie
 - *Physics Today* Q&A: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.4.20200131a/full/>
- Spight, Carl
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/carl-spight-38>
- Stith, James
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/33903>
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/col-james-stith>
- Stovall, Tannie
 - *Physics Today* Letter: <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/abs/10.1063/1.3047846>
 - *Black Paris Profiles* by Monique Wells interview excerpt:
http://entreetoblackparis.blogspot.com/2012/08/black-paris-profiles-tannie-stovall_2.html
- Tanner, Kandice
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/44818>
- Venable, Demetrius
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/47015>
 - ScienceMakers biography:
<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/demetrius-venable>
- Washington, Warren
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/33098>
- West, James
 - AIP Interview: <https://youtu.be/95EFhuRyAe0>
 - ScienceMakers biography: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/james-west>
- Williams, Quinton
 - Oral history: <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/44886>