Who has the Power?

Historically speaking, the focus of the majority of art has been on people of power.

Having a portrait done cost a lot of money and it was a symbol of status to have portraits of yourself and or artwork in your home. A lot of artwork has also been made in the name of religion, politics and vanity. These images are given even more power once they are placed in galleries and museums where people pay to have access to simply view them.

**But that was in the past right?**

Not really.   
Think about the power that media holds in society today. Sure technology has allowed art to become accessible to all but power and influence are still central themes, it is just the types of people who have taken center stage who have changed. Bedroom posters, magazine covers, blog posts, and social media click bate – we are saturated by images of people with power and influence.   
Some deserve it.  
Others, not so much.

***In a world that seems to glorify beauty over brains, what role can the artist have in giving the place of power over to people who actually deserve it?***

**Related Concepts:**

**Audience**

**Representation**

**Visual Culture**

Communication

**Global Context:**  **Key Concept:**

Fairness & Development Communication

Inspired by the work of Kehinde Wiley.

“[I think there's something important in going against the grain, and perhaps finding value in things that aren't necessarily institutionally recognized.](http://www.azquotes.com/quote/1408091)” ~ [Kehinde Wiley](http://www.azquotes.com/author/60590-Kehinde_Wiley)

**⃝ Brainstorming** – Who’s got the power vs. Who should have the power? ( Separate sheet )

**Task 1 – Research**

**Who do YOU think deserves the power?**

Look at your brainstorming. Is there any one person or group of people who jump out at you as being particularly inspiring to you? For this assignment you will need to choose one individual.

Knowing you will be creating an artwork the fuses patterns and images in the style of Kehinde Wiley create a series of questions to guide your research about your chosen person. Although Wiley uses textile-like patterns, which sometimes reflect the subject’s cultural background, they are not necessarily linked to the subject symbolically. For your work, I would like you to use symbolism as a central focus to your pattern.

**Subject:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Why does this person deserve to hold a place of power?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Research Questions to fuel your creation: ( Minimum 5 questions )**

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**Question Responses:  
1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**Sources ( in MLA Format ):**

**Example:**

Doe, John. “Put your right foot in.” *Dancing for Deer*. Forest Publications. Jan 2011. www.dfd.com. Retrieved Sept. 12, 2013.