

Your Writing Style: Author Comparisons

Overall Assessment

Your nonfiction writing combines meticulous historical research with engaging narrative storytelling. You have a distinctive voice that brings historical figures to life while maintaining scholarly credibility through extensive citations and quotations.

Primary Style Matches

1. David McCullough (Strongest Match)

Your style most closely resembles McCullough's approach in works like *John Adams* and *1776*. Like McCullough, you:

- Weave together multiple historical threads into a cohesive narrative
- Use vivid descriptive details ("portly fellow with a conspicuous nose, rounded chin, and dark eyes that could penetrate an insincere mien")
- Balance extensive quotations with smooth narrative transitions
- Create intimate portraits of historical figures through specific anecdotes
- Maintain momentum while presenting dense historical information

2. Ron Chernow

You actually quote Chernow in your sample, and you share his biographical approach:

- Deep archival research with careful source attribution
- Character-driven narratives that explore motivations and psychology
- Comfortable moving between grand historical events and personal details
- Use of contemporaneous accounts to add authenticity

3. Doris Kearns Goodwin

Similar to Goodwin's *Team of Rivals*, your writing:

- Illuminates history through interconnected character studies
- Uses scene-setting effectively ("grassy area near King's called the Commons, now City Hall Park")
- Contextualizes individual stories within larger historical movements

Distinctive Characteristics

Your Strengths:

- **Seamless quotation integration:** You embed sources naturally without interrupting narrative flow
- **Cinematic descriptions:** "riding an imposing horse with a Russian wolfhound by his side" creates vivid mental images
- **Biographical depth:** You don't shy from complexity (the Steuben rumors), presenting history honestly
- **Pacing variety:** You alternate between quick biographical sketches and lingering dramatic moments

Your Signature Moves:

- Opening with contextual framing ("As Bayley was studying with Hunter in London...")
- Using specific sensory details (the Star of Fidelity description is particularly effective)
- Letting historical figures speak for themselves through extensive quotations
- Building dramatic tension through historical foreshadowing

Modern Comparison

You also share DNA with **Erik Larson** (*The Devil in the White City*), particularly in how you:

- Create narrative suspense from known historical events
- Use precise details to make the past tangible
- Structure parallel storylines that illuminate each other

Overall Voice

Your writing is **accessible academic** — scholarly without being dry, detailed without being overwhelming. You trust your readers to engage with complexity while making sure they're never lost. This is the hallmark of top-tier popular history writing.