

*Freewrite #1:* Respond to the following quotation about celebrity from Leo Braudy's book, *The Frenzy of Renown*. Identify any significant language (words or phrases that function as Keyterms) and analyze their meaning in the passage. What major point, or argument, does Braudy make? What support does he offer? How might what he explains about "celebrity" apply to the American Gangster?

"But to be talked about is to be part of a story, and to be part of a story is to be at the mercy of storytellers--the media and their audience. The famous person is thus not so much a person as a story about a person--which might be said about the social character of each one of us. Like some special aspect of ourselves, the famous person also holds out the possibility that there is another self inside, one not totally defined by that social story. In the incessant spotlight the constant tension between those stories--of the talked-of self and the unexpressed self--becomes more acute. Similar, the basic conflict of modern fame is between the ideal isolation that has been the propaganda of the famous since the eighteenth century and the expanded urge to recognition that has developed in the pressure of the democratization and the widening franchise. In one view, the famous exist on a solitary eminence; in the other, they are part of the audience's story about itself."

Braudy, Leo. *The Frenzy of Renown: Fame & Its History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.)