

Drawing and Painting

Lowell Milken Center
FOR *Unsung Heroes*

Discover Create Change

ArtEffect Project

[\(full competition details\)](#)



[Unsung Hero Paintings, Exemplars, Previous Finalists](#)

Purpose:

1. To promote positive role models in the lives of students
2. To empower students to stand up for what they believe is right
3. To create a personal work of art based on students' interpretation of an Unsung Hero's character and actions;
4. To reflect on your experiences by writing an impact paper that articulates your personal journey and interprets their work for the viewer.

Part 1: Introduction

Define Unsung Hero

Using a piece of paper and pencil, respond to the following. Upon completion, share your thoughts.

1. What does the term "unsung hero" mean to you?
2. What characteristics does an unsung hero possess?

Meet Unsung Hero, Irena Sendler

Show, "[The Irena Sendler Project Documentary: Life in a Jar](#)". This documentary tells the story of a Catholic social worker who saved the lives of 2500 Jewish children during the Holocaust and the U.S. students who discovered her unknown story decades later.

[Show ArtEffect Video Project](#) - Discuss.

Objective:

- Create a work of art about an already discovered Unsung Hero, which demonstrates thoughtful, self-directed and independent ideas that are personally relevant in exploring visually (literally or abstractly) how the Unsung Hero created profound and positive change in history by improving the lives of others through his or her actions.

Part 2: Brainstorming - gathering information and ideas

Look through the [LMC's website](#) to read about the discovered unsung heroes...[and here](#).

You will invest a significant amount of time upfront researching the already discovered Unsung Heroes featured on LMC's website:

- Which stories move you?
- Which Unsung Hero inspires you visually?
- Students should become highly acquainted with their Unsung Hero's story and the impact of his or her actions on the lives of others.

To this end, students will take the following steps:

- Deconstruct the story making note of the climax (illustration).
- Consider any and every visual from the story, including: Location (maps, geography, etc.)
- Unsung Hero (images)
- Significant Objects
- Consider using the Unsung Hero's appearance and characteristics while reconstructing the scene with photos for reference material.
- choice of color/color scheme
- Ideas for media

Decide whether to pursue a realistic, abstract and/ or nonobjective interpretation.

Part 3: Final Planning

You will create **at least 2 different concepts/compositions** for your unsung hero in your sketchbook.

The final plans should include:

- strong compositional skills - placement, arrangement of objects
- original, unique ideas, artistic voice
- a strong, direct connection to your unsung hero's story

In short, you are creating a visual story that celebrates the heroic actions of your hero.

Remember: You will need to justify, in writing, all artistic choices.

Part 4: Creating and Producing

Create a work of art about a discovered Unsung Hero that demonstrates thoughtful, self-directed and independent ideas. They should be personally relevant in exploring visually (literally or abstractly) how the Unsung Hero created profound and positive change in history by improving the lives of others through his or her actions.

Process

You will use a wood panel and choose the orientation (vertical or horizontal) for your painting.

You may use other media in addition to the acrylic paint.

Feedback

We will have ongoing formal and informal feedback sessions as you work on your portrait.

Impact Paper/Synthesis

Upon completion of artwork, you will write an artist's statement composed of 500-1000 words that articulates your vision, interprets the work for the viewer and discusses the personal journey the project provided.

Artist's Statement: Criteria

1. What inspired you to choose to portray your heroes' story?
2. How does your work express your hero's character and heroic acts?
3. How did you creatively and uniquely create your work in response to the process?
4. How has the process of creating a work of art changed your outlook on life?
5. How might you share your work and/or experience with others?

[Scoring Rubric](#)