

HEROES IN AMERICA?

PHASE 1: THE CALL TO ADVENTURE



What is the role of a hero or SHero in a culture?

QUALITIES OF A HERO What does it mean to be a hero?	Read this Article: Heroes
DUTIES OF A HERO What does this song have to say about being a hero?	Watch this video: Superman
EVOLUTION OF A HERO Do the attributes of a hero remain the same over time?	Read this Article: Where I Find My Heroes

Three types of Heroes:

1. The Battlefield Hero: Achilles is the most excellent of the Greek warriors who sail to Troy, and his actions win for him eternal glory while also demonstrating the limits and the consequences of human action: he can't simultaneously earn a glorious name as a warrior and live a long, contented life. It has to be one or the other.
2. The Suffering Hero: Odysseus' distinct heroism lies in his will to survive, to suffer and to endure all of the challenges that beset him. The lesson we should take away from reading the Odyssey and thinking about the life of its hero is that "life is full of toil and suffering, but man should be able not only to endure but also to transform this toil and suffering into supreme achievement.
3. The Other-Regarding Hero: In his depiction of Socrates' trial and execution, Plato establishes him as a hero whose actions are distinctly other-regarding while, at the same time, like Homer's heroes, Socrates effectively demonstrates that the kind of life one lives - rather than its duration - is of primary importance. But unlike them, he chooses to give up his life not to attain some personal good but in order to do some good for others

[From: Heroism, Too Broad or Too Narrow, Mike Dilbeck](#)

Who is a modern day champion and what is his or her cause?
What trials has he/she faced along the way?
How have those experiences shaped him/her?

Choose your champions (consider the questions about heroes in the left hand column, because you will need to be convincing that your nominee should win in the next phase of this task).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PHASE 2: ENTERING THE UNKNOWN

A guided challenge is assigned -- do you accept this call to adventure?

Discuss the following questions in your group:

- Who are the heroes of your society? How do you tell? Explain.
- What were some of the different qualifications used to justify your nominees?
- Is there a quality every nominee has in common?

A new museum is being opened. It is solely dedicated to three heroes who have shaped your country. You and your classmates have been selected to decide which three figures will be inducted to The Hall of Heroes. Each person should nominate one person.

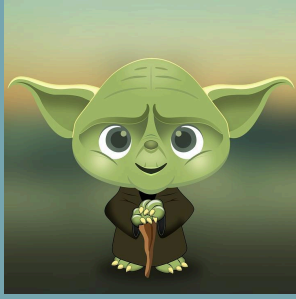
Discuss your choice with your group. Then vote on the three inductees. If there is a discrepancy, continue to vote until you reach a consensus.

- Watch this video before you begin: [Building Consensus](#)



Enter the names of your group's 3 inductees here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



PHASE 3: MEETING THE MENTOR

For this task, I am your
Yoda/Gandalf/Dumbledore

Begin your collaborative essay and share it with me so I can give you some helpful comments to help you succeed in your task.

Sample Organizer for Your Essay:

- PP1: INTRO
 - Start with a good lead
 - Give a very brief summary of Heroism
 - Introduce what your essay will be about-purpose
- PP2: Describe Hero Nominee #1
 - What tests or trials that the hero must overcome?
 - How do his allies help him along the way?
 - What skills or characteristics does the hero possess that makes him/her heroic?
 - Does the hero have a dark side that he/she struggles with?
 - Is there a near death moment? The hero's darkest hour?
 - How does the hero overcome his/her greatest fear?
- PP3: Describe Hero Nominee #2
 - See PP2
- PP4: Describe Hero Nominee #3
 - See PP2
- PP5: Conclusion
 - What do these heroes tell us about what our culture values?
 - What is the lesson we can take away from this task?
 - How can the message in this task help us in our own real life challenges?



PHASE 4: TRANSFORMATION

A new challenge/task is presented which requires you to apply your understanding of Heroism to your own life..

Like epic heroes, we must define and contest issues of importance in our own society.

Read: [What Really is a Hero Anyway?](#)

- Can we call ourselves a hero?
- When I show courage, does that make me a hero?
- Is a hero someone we simply admire, respect, look up to?
- Is a hero some kind of “superhero” with “super powers?”
- Does it take a lot of money and fame to be a hero?
- What’s involved in being a hero?

[Group Discussion]



PHASE 5: MASTERY

Master of Two Worlds:

Reflect on your journey and your transformation. Share your essay in a blog post. You are a master of two worlds now; share your wisdom by commenting on at least five other blog posts from your allies. Remembering that hero myths are always representative of cultural values:

What do these hero nominees say about the values of our culture?