

My Hero Personal Essay & Speech

During this unit, you have learned about the classical definition of a “hero.” We often hear that word used today to describe different people in our world and community.

Your assignment is to create your own personal definition of what it means to be a hero, choose one modern day person that exemplifies your chosen characteristics, and share them both in an essay and speech. The essay and speech should be guided by a very clear thesis statement. The body of the essay should clearly explain how your chosen hero demonstrates characteristics from your personal definition of a hero.

Procedures:

1. Brainstorm your ideas of what a hero should be. Narrow your focus down to 3 specific traits.
2. Choose a person who fits all criteria you are looking for. This may or may not require a little research on your part, depending on how well you know the person.
3. Using your brainstorming information as a guide, create an outline for your paper. Remember to order your points or traits according to their value or importance. Your best or most relevant point should come at the end of the paper!
4. Use your outline to compose a clever and creative thesis statement to help guide the direction of your essay. Remember to follow the S+D+3R Method to help you organize your thesis.
5. Write the paper.
6. Edit and revise. Don’t skip this step; it will make a big difference to your final grade. If you can’t get someone else to read your paper, read it to yourself out loud.
7. Your final paper should be typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins in 12-point Times New Roman font.
8. The actual text of your paper (not including title and heading) should be a minimum of 400 words.
9. You may include a ~1 ½ x 2 inch picture of the person you are writing about, if you wish.



Remember, a well-organized paper (guided by a very clear thesis statement) is the key to a successful paper!

Due Date: _____

My Hero Essay Rubric

Name _____ Hour _____

____ / 15 **Ideas**

- ____ / 5 Clear, precise, and organized definition of a hero is present with thoughtful choice of characteristics / qualifications
- ____ / 10 Direction seeks to prove how chosen person is considered a hero by definition

____ / 10 **Organization**

- ____ / 5 A clear and organized thesis statement is present
- ____ / 3 Each paragraph discusses only one topic and is guided by a topic sentence
- ____ / 1 Introductory paragraph contains thesis statement
- ____ / 1 Conclusion paragraph contains restatement of thesis

____ / 5 **Voice**

- ____ / 3 Writing is engaging and sounds both authentic and appropriate to the subject
- ____ / 2 Writer demonstrates enthusiasm and interest in the subject at hand

____ / 5 **Word Choice**

- ____ / 2 Words are specific and accurate
- ____ / 2 Lively verbs, specific nouns, and modifiers improve writing
- ____ / 1 Writer avoids much repetition

____ / 5 **Sentence Fluency**

- ____ / 2 Sentences flow smoothly from one to another (enhanced by transitions)
- ____ / 2 Sentences vary in length and structure
- ____ / 1 No comma splices, fragments, and run-on sentences are present

____ / 5 **Presentation**

- ____ / 1 Proper heading
- ____ / 1 Double spaced, 12-point Times new Roman font
- ____ / 1 Minimum of 400 words
- ____ / 2 MLA Citations are present if necessary

____ / 5 **Conventions**

- ____ / 5 The writing has no more than 1 grammar error and 1 spelling error (1 point deduction for further errors)

____ / 50 **Total**

My Hero Speech Rubric

Name _____ Hour _____

CONTENT

Subject/Knowledge (was the subject appropriate for the assignment and did the speaker appear knowledgeable?)

Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
2	4	6	8	10

Structure (was it easy to follow where the speaker was going, organizationally, during the speech?)

2	4	6	8	10
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Attention Getter (did the speaker grab your attention and make you want to listen?)

1	2	3	4	5
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Sources (did the speaker cite where they found their information?)

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Time Limit (how well did the speaker utilize the time that was allotted?)

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

DELIVERY SKILLS

Variety (did the speaker's personality and vitality come through? Or were they monotone?)

2	4	6	8	10
---	---	---	---	----

Volume (was the speaker loud enough for everyone to easily hear them?)

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Rate (was the speaker's rate nice and conversational?)

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Vocal Pauses (did the speaker refrain from using "um," "er," "ah," or repetitive words?)

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Pronunciation/Grammar (did the speaker pronounce their words correctly and use correct grammar?)

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Eye Contact (did the speaker look at the audience member's eyes during most of the presentation?)

2	4	6	8	10
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Facial Expression (did the speaker have natural and appropriate facial expressions?)

1	2	3	4	5
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Hand Gestures (did the speaker have natural and appropriate hand gestures?)

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

Posture/Feet (did the speaker stand up straight and keep their feet still?)

1	2	3	4	5
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Visual Aid (does the visual aid help the audience understand and remember the subject? Also, you might take into consideration the speaker's professionalism in handling questions, and attire)

2	4	6	8	10
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TOTAL POINTS: _____ / 100

Time _____ *Vocal Pauses* _____