

Composition Assignment: Modern Day Heroes

Having studied the heroic ideal of Arthurian legends as well as some contemporary and even futuristic heroes (like Harrison Bergeron), you can see that heroes have always played an important part in every culture. An astute person can understand a great deal about a society and gain much insight into its cultural values by examining those who are considered to be heroes. Your assignment is to select a man or woman whom you consider to be a hero and write an essay explaining why this person is a hero. You must choose a modern person, one who has lived in the last half of the twentieth century. This may be a person whose name is a household word or a relatively unknown person, but it must be someone about whom something has been published. You must read and quote from at least two sources: one may be internet; one must be print.

One of the most important parts of a good essay is a good introduction. An introduction should begin with the general and move toward the specific. Begin your essay with the concept of heroes. Make a reference to heroes throughout the ages and what qualities have been admired in previous eras. Then move into our present time and how you define a hero today. Not every one will have the same idea of what constitutes a hero; that's fine. End your introduction by naming your hero. This is your thesis statement.

In your second, third, and fourth paragraphs, discuss **SPECIFIC DETAILS** about your hero—personal character traits, deeds of heroism, etc.—that prove that your hero is a real hero. What is most important here is that the life of your hero measures up to your definition of a hero. In other words, if you state in your introduction that a hero is brave, your paper must show that your hero has actually done something brave. If you state that a hero is loyal, your essay must give an example of your hero's loyalty. It doesn't matter if anyone else of everyone else agrees that your hero is a hero; what matters is that your hero is a hero in accordance with your definition of a hero.

In your final concluding paragraph, sum up all the evidence of your hero, and show how you have now proven him/her a hero. Then go on to state why we need heroes even in our present day and age and why they are important to all of us. Conclude with a philosophical statement about heroes and your hero.

It would be a good idea to quote at some point from the Carlyle essay on heroes and hero worship. You must have some quoted material in your paper and use proper internal documentation.

Be sure to include a Works Cited list at the back using MLA style sheet.

Rough draft due date _____

Final copy due date _____

Modern Day Heroes

A) How does the writer define a modern day hero?

B) What person or group of people has the author identified as a hero?

C) What evidence has been presented that this person is indeed a hero?

1.

2.

3.

D) Has the author convinced you that the person is indeed a hero?

E). List any errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling that you noted in the paper.

F) Note any words you observed that reflected the sophisticated vocabulary expected of seniors: Note any “first grade words” that should be upgraded.