

# Student Resource Manual

## ELA 10-2

# HEROES

# UNIT:

# ESSAYS

# AND

# LETTER

# WRITING

**Title: *The Heroes In Our Lives***  
**Dates: March 9<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Teacher: Ms. Broda**

**ASSIGNMENT #1: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE & ORAL PRESENTATION**  
**WEIGHT: 20%**

**Purpose of the Assignment:** This assignment will have you looking at some of the real-life heroes in our world. You are expected to work collaboratively with your group member(s) to research a certain individual and write a newspaper article on this person. As a group, you are then expected to present your hero to the class in a short 5-minute presentation in order to educate them about the person you researched. During the assignment, you must use judgment when looking at web sites in order to assess the validity of the information you uncover: Is this website worthwhile?

**How to Complete This Assignment:** In groups of two or three, you will receive a handout with a specific individual's name and web sites associated with him or her. In the computer lab, you must research this individual on the Internet using the search engine Google. You may use the web sites I have recommended, or you may find your own. You must complete two projects for this assignment:

1. Newspaper Article: 15 points

- Using information from *at least* three different websites, create a one-page newspaper article about your hero, using the rubric included.
- The article must include the following:
  - A Title
  - The names of the authors/reporters
  - The date
  - Evidence that the individual is a hero:
    - How do they follow the 6 characteristics of a hero?
  - *At least* one achievement in that person's life
  - One interesting fact about the hero
  - A list of the websites used

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE: 15 Points**

	Excellent! 9-10/10	Good 7-8/10	Basic 5-6/10	Weak/ Needs Work 4 or less/10
<b>Newspaper Article Includes all Necessary Components</b>	All components completed	Most of the components completed	Half of the components completed	Less than half of the necessary components completed
<b>Correctness of Writing</b>	No grammatical and spelling errors	A couple grammatical and/or spelling errors	Many grammatical and spelling errors	Difficult to read because of grammatical and spelling errors
<b>Length of Article</b>	One to Two Pages	Less than One Page	Half a Page	Less than Half a Page

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Oral Presentation: 5 points

- Using the information you have discovered, present your hero to the class in a 5-minute presentation, using the rubric included.
- The presentation must include the following:
  - An equal distribution of participation between group members
  - The following information must be included:
    - Where is the individual from?
    - How is she/he a hero?
    - What was one of her/his accomplishments?
    - What did the group find most interesting about the individual?

**ORAL PRESENTATION: 5 Points**

	<b>Excellent!</b> 9-10/10	<b>Good</b> 7-8/10	<b>Basic</b> 5-6/10	<b>Weak/ Needs Work</b> 4 or less/10
<b>Oral Presentation includes all of the necessary information</b>	All components completed	Most of the components completed	Half of the components completed	Less than half of the necessary components completed
<b>Equal Distribution of Participation</b>	All group members equally spoke	Distribution almost equal throughout	One person spoke most of the time	All members did not participate
<b>Group members made the information fun and interesting</b>	Group members appeared to be enthusiastic and interested	Group members appeared to be interested	Group members did not appear to be interested	Group members were falling asleep during presentation!
<b>Time of Presentation</b>	Approx. 5 min	3-4 min	1 -2 min	Less than 1 min

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT #2: LETTER WRITING ASSIGNMENT  
WEIGHT: 20%**

**Purpose of the Assignment:** This assignment will have you look into your own life and discover who your own personal heroes are. You will also have the opportunity to write two personal letters.

**How to Complete This Assignment:** This assignment requires that you work independently. Using the "Friendly Letter Format Handout," you are to write a letter to your hero, and then respond to your own letter as the hero. You must complete two letters for this assignment:

1. Letter To Your Hero: 10 points

- Using the "Friendly Letter Format Handout," write a personal letter to your own hero. You may know your hero personally, or you may not. Use the following checklist to complete the assignment:

CONTENT	Fantastic!	Good	Basic	Needs Work
The letter followed the "Friendly Letter Format Handout."				
The author told the hero why he/she is considered a hero.				
The author's questions were well thought-out and interesting.				
The author of the letter asked <i>at least</i> three questions to their hero.				

2. Responding letter as hero: 10 points

- You must now pretend that you are the hero you have written to. Respond to the letter you received as if you are the hero. Make sure to follow this checklist:

CONTENT	Fantastic!	Good	Basic	Needs Work
The letter followed the "Friendly Letter Format Handout."				
The letter was written in the perspective of the hero.				
The hero responded to all the questions asked in an insightful way.				
The hero's responses were <i>at least</i> three sentences long to each question.				
The hero's responses were creative and interesting.				

**ASSIGNMENT #3: FINAL ESSAY**  
**WEIGHT: 25%**

**Purpose of the Assignment:** The purpose of this assignment is to work on our essay writing skills. We will be watching the movie *Simon Birch*, and using the information we know about heroes, we will write an essay about the main character.

**How to Complete This Assignment:** Using our notes on the characteristics of heroes, we will compare Simon to a hero. Our essays need to have an introduction, a minimum of three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Each paragraph needs to have *at least* five sentences in it. Make sure to follow the checklist!

**Essay Topic:** Pick three of the six characteristics of a hero. Using these three characteristics, is Simon Birch a hero?

You must hand in the following:

- A completed essay **outline**.
- Rough copy** of your essay:
  - o Introduction,
  - o Main ideas with supporting evidence for each body paragraph,
  - o Conclusion.
- Good copy** of your essay:
  - o Free from all spelling errors,
  - o Uses proper sentences and grammar,
  - o Uses transition sentences to create paragraph unity (all paragraphs connect to each other),
  - o Uses specific evidence from the film.

**Evaluation:** Your final essay will be assessed based on the following rubric:

<b>Organization:</b>	<b>/9</b>
Introduction	
<i>At least</i> three body paragraphs	
Conclusion	
<b>Sentence Dynamics:</b>	<b>/7</b>
Use of transition sentences between paragraphs	
Fully completed sentences (no fragments)	
<b>Grammar and Spelling:</b>	<b>/6</b>
Free from all errors	
<b>Evidence:</b>	<b>/3</b>
Use of specific evidence from the movie	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>/25</b>

## Essay Outline Format

### I. Introduction:

- A. General Statement: What is this paper about?
- B. Thesis: What will you show in your essay?

Introductory  
Paragraph

### II. Body:

#### A. First Supporting Idea: Topic sentence

- i. Example, discussion, analysis
- ii. Example, discussion, analysis
- iii. Example, discussion, analysis
- iv. Transition sentence into next paragraph

Body Paragraph  
ONE

#### B. Second Supporting Idea: Topic sentence

- i. Example, discussion, analysis
- ii. Example, discussion, analysis
- iii. Example, discussion, analysis
- iv. Transition sentence into next paragraph

Body Paragraph  
TWO

#### C. Third Supporting Idea: Topic sentence

- i. Example, discussion, analysis
- ii. Example, discussion, analysis
- iii. Example, discussion, analysis

Body Paragraph  
THREE

### III. Conclusion:

- A. Statement reflecting back on thesis
- B. Reinstate key points from essay
- C. Ending statement that provokes thought.

Concluding  
Paragraph

# Helpful Essay Tips!

## 1. ALWAYS DO SOME ROUGH WORK!

Do not simply start writing your essay outline off the top of your head!  
Do some brainstorming first.

## 2. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A STRONG THESIS STATEMENT.

It may take you up to half an hour to get your thesis written. Do not worry if it takes you a long time, because this is normal! Once you have your thesis, the rest is easy!

## 3. CHECK FOR TRANSITION SENTENCES.

Ensure your topic sentence of each paragraph connects to the previous paragraph. This will create a sense of flow throughout your essay.

## 4. POINT – PROVE – DISCUSS

Do not make the assumption that just because you don't have quotations that you do not need specific proof! ALWAYS prove what you say in your essay with specific examples. The more specific the better! Do not assume the reader knows anything beyond the plot of the literature, so always explain your proof to the reader.

## 5. EDIT, EDIT, EDIT!

You can always pick up an easy mark simply by re-reading your essay for mistakes. Use a dictionary and a thesaurus for words you are unsure of, or want to change. Try to leave this until the end, as it may slow your writing if you edit as you write. Another tip: Try reading your essay out loud. You will be able to hear what sentences sound funny, and then you can change them!

## 6. ALWAYS PUT A TITLE ON YOUR ESSAY!

This is the first thing your marker will read when you hand in your essay. It is very important, so be creative!

## 7. *Relax...*

You know your stuff because you reviewed the material before you began writing. Have confidence in yourself and your writing ability. You will do so much better if you relax and let the words flow.

## **Business Letter Format**

Your Return Address (begin on the first line of the Word document)

Your City

Your Province

Your Postal Code

Date (written either as January 1, 2006 or 1 January 2006)

First and Last name of person you are writing to

Their Address

Their Province

Their Postal Code

Dear Mr./Ms. Person: (make sure to put in the colon!)

Indentations for paragraphs in letters are usually not used because it is easier not to use them. The body paragraphs, such as this one, should be single spaced in a business letter. There can be more than one body paragraph, although a business letter is usually not longer than one page. However, make sure to leave a space between paragraphs!

This closing paragraph in a business letter should be used to thank your associate for his/her time and effort.

Sincerely yours,

(Leave three spaces here so that you can personally sign the letter)

Johnny Bravo



## Friendly Letter Format

Your Address  
Your City, Province, Postal Code

January 1, 2006

Dear Aunt Jemima, (can be quite informal, but make sure to use a comma!)

In this type of letter, is it more appropriate to indent each new paragraph. It makes the letter seem less formal and more welcoming. A friendly letter can be as long as you want it to be, but make sure to use paragraphs so it is easier to read!

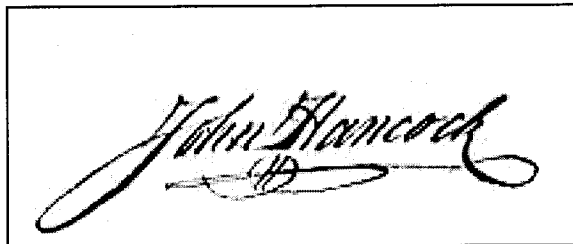
As well as using short paragraphs, leaving a space between paragraphs also makes it easier to read your letter.

Salutation, (begin in the middle of the page)

(Leave three spaces here so that you can personally sign the letter)

John Hancock

DID YOU  
KNOW...?



Have you ever heard the phrase "Put your *John Hancock* here?" It is often used as a way to ask for your signature, as John Hancock became famous for his bold and unique signature on the Declaration of Independence in America.

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