

LESSON PLAN 36: WHO'S YOUR HERO?

Objective: To research and write a website on an admired person

Age range: 7-14

We all have our heroes – and there are many ways the concept can be used in class. They can be historical figures, sporting or political ones, family or friends. If you're investigating heroes with your students and are looking for a different way for them to express their thoughts and ideas, there's an online educational project you might like to try.



MEET MYHERO.COM

This is a website where students can write about people they view as heroes. It gives users the chance to create a multi-media website on the person they admire. It's free and easy, and can include words and images. It's not only a research project but also an aspirational exercise, as the site explains:

"Our mission is to enlighten and inspire people of all ages with an ever-growing Internet archive of hero stories from around the world. These stories serve to remind us that we all have the potential to overcome great obstacles and achieve our dreams by following in the footsteps of our heroes."

Lots of people have already added their own messages that celebrate heroes from around the world – which makes for a fascinating resource all of its own.

YOU WILL NEED

Computer and Internet access. A person to write about.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Research, presentation, creativity, multi-media.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

How and why people achieve recognition in their life, and how to make choices in our lives that we would admire.

METHOD

1. Introduce your class to the concept of heroes. Look at what makes someone a hero and identify who students think are their heroes.
2. Ask students to collect information about their hero – facts, stories, images – and collate this into a description of why they admire this person's life and work.
3. Visit the MY HERO website (www.myhero.com) and watch the 30-second promo video, then take the website tour, which gives an overview of what it's all about.
4. Register and begin. There's a very simple tutorial 'How to

create a MY HERO story' that takes you through the steps involved. You'll see just how easy it is.

5. Who, What, Where, When and Why? When students enter the info, the site encourages them to answer these five questions within the story:

- Who is your hero?
- What has your hero done?
- Where does your hero live?
- When did your hero live?
- Why is this person important to you?
- How has your hero made a difference in your life?



6. Add artwork and/or photos – these must be saved as jpg or gif files at 72 dots per inch (dpi) maximum resolution. The maximum file size accepted is 200K. You can also add links to other websites, and a bibliography.

7. Edit and revise your story. Check spelling and punctuation, sort out any design problems, and generally get the site ready for publication.

8. Submit your story – Remember, once submitted, stories can no longer be revised. So be sure to proofread the Web page and make sure you are satisfied with the layout. Then click on **Submit My Hero Story**. All submissions are reviewed by the MY HERO staff, then activated for public viewing. Stories can be found by using the search engine found on the site's home page. Searches can be done by giving a name, keyword or organisation.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Guest Book – if you don't want to register, the site also has a 'Guest Book' where you can name your hero and add a brief explanation.

Short films and artwork – the site also promotes the creation and use of short films and artwork, through various galleries and competitions.

TEACHER'S ROOM

MY HERO includes a 'Teacher's Room'. Here there are a number of teaching resources, including links, newsletters, FAQs, tutorials and lesson plans.

