

**Hero Essay Directions:** Write a 5-paragraph Definition Essay on “What is a Hero?” Your essay should include these five paragraphs: 1) Introduction 2) Function paragraph 3) Negation paragraph 4) Example paragraph 5) Conclusion.

You will be turning in all steps of the writing process, including pre-write(s), written rough draft(s), typed rough draft(s), self-assessment on the rubric, goals for revision, revising on the rough draft, revised draft(s), final draft. Your final draft should be typed: use 12-point standard black font (like Arial Narrow or Times New Roman), double-space, align to the left, indent the first line of each new paragraph.

**Ideas for what to include in each paragraph:**

**Introduction: Grabber + Background material + Thesis:** Start with a sentence that “grabs” your readers’ attention. Then write a few background sentences – you might use one of the ideas below. End your conclusion with your thesis – YOUR definition of a hero – “A hero is...”

**Ideas:**

- Start with a quote about heroes or heroism. Make sure you use quotation marks and include the author of the quote.
- “When most people think of a hero...”
- “Every culture has heroes.” Then give examples of heroes from several different cultures.
- Describe a heroic scene from a book, movie, or real life.
- Describe how people like to hear and read about heroes. Describe the various places that we can hear and read about heroes.
- Give a brief history of hero movies over the years. Maybe even include how many people went to see them.
- Describe the different heroes for different generations / time periods for different age groups.
- Talk about the stereotypical hero and then move to talk about why the stereotype isn’t accurate.

**Definition by Function paragraph:** Write one strong paragraph that answers these questions:

- Why do we (people) need heroes?
- What do heroes do for us?
- What are some of the most important traits of a hero?

Make sure to include explanations and commentary in your paragraph as you answer these questions.

**Definition by Negation paragraph:** Write one paragraph that explains heroism by explaining what a hero is *NOT*. Include explanations and commentary. You might use these sentence starters to help:

- A hero (Heroes, Heroism) is not... but...
- A hero (Heroes, Heroism) does not ... but...
- A hero (Heroes, Heroism) is not always ... but ...
- A hero (Heroes, Heroism) is not just... but...

**Definition by Examples paragraph:** Choose several different heroes – use a wide variety: superheroes, young heroes, old heroes, male/female heroes, animal heroes, fictional heroes, national heroes, your personal heroes. Include at least one of the heroes that we studied together. Also make sure to include the hero from the novel that you read as one of your examples. Explain how each of these heroes fits your definition of a hero (your thesis). Include at least one quote (like the one you did about Ana), properly embedded, in this paragraph.

**Conclusion:** Wrap up your essay. Try to answer the question: “So what?” In other words, now that we know all about heroes, how can we apply this to our lives? What can we learn from heroes? Why is this important?