

PROJECT: GREAT AMERICAN HEROES

Charles Lindbergh



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If you can tell me who your heroes are, I can tell you how you're going to turn out in life.

—Warren Buffet

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

—Joseph Campbell

If someone were to ask you who your hero is, or who you think makes a great leader, you may be stalled in your response. Beyond your immediate social or family circle, it may be difficult to consider whom you would even consider a hero.

If you are an athlete, you may want to look into the life of Jim Thorpe, a Native American football player, or Gertrude Ederle, who was an Olympic swimmer and the first woman to swim the English Channel. If you are a musician, you may find the life of Louis Armstrong, a trumpeter, composer, and singer, fascinating. If you love the blues, you will want to investigate the story of Bessie Smith, the “empress of Blues.” Do you enjoy aviation, or engineering, or exploration? You might find the story of Charles Lindbergh enthralling. If you like a good mystery, you should read about the life of Amelia Earhart, whose plane disappeared over the Atlantic. Have you driven a Ford lately? Or, at least, seen one on the road? Well, you can thank Henry Ford for streamlining the process for building cars in America. Perhaps you are interested in politics or how to give a great speech; then, William Jennings Bryan would be your man. Interested in the people who were working in civil rights before Martin

Luther King? Marcus Garvey is just one leader who promoted the idea of an African American identity and nationalism.

- 1) Make a list of five characteristics that, for you, are essential in a great leader. Now, next to each of those characteristics, explain how that characteristic would be exemplified in a hero or a leader.

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Explain/Define</u>

2) Choose any historical figure that you might consider a hero and list his/her name below:

3) Reflect on your list of five qualifications for a great leader or hero. What did this person do that illustrated at least three of your qualifications? Take note of those three qualifications as they apply to that person's life. Be sure that you have an example from the life of that person to demonstrate how the person makes a great leader or hero.

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Example</u>

- 4) Write a 5 paragraph essay explaining who your hero is and how they exemplify the characteristics of a hero. Use the attached outline to structure your essay.

HERO OUTLINE

I. History of historical figure

- A. Brief summary of the person's life
- B. Claim that states that this person is a great leader based on character traits

II. Leadership/Hero Trait #1

- A. Introduce and define the term
- B. Explain how the person meets this qualification
 - 1. Specific details from the person's life that illustrates this trait
- C. Explain how, because this person had this trait, he or she contributed to American society in a meaningful way

III. Leadership/Hero Trait #2

- A. Introduce and define the term
- B. Explain how the person meets this qualification
 - 1. Specific details from the person's life that illustrates this trait
- C. Explain how, because this person had this trait, he or she contributed to American society in a meaningful way

IV. Leadership/Hero Trait #3

- A. Introduce and define the term
- B. Explain how the person meets this qualification
 - 1. Specific details from the person's life that illustrates this trait
- C. Explain how, because this person had this trait, he or she contributed to American society in a meaningful way

V. Conclusion

- A. Comment on the importance of this person in American history

B. Explain the relevance of this discussion to the reader (Answer the “So what?” for the reader)