

**English**  
**Grade 7AB**



**Lesson Plans**

## "Hero Awards"

**Subject:**

**English:** 7AB

**Level:** Grade 7

**Abstract:**

Students will discuss characteristics of heroes and agree upon a definition and examples. They will research the lives of heroes and use graphic organizers for taking notes and will write a presentation in PowerPoint to persuade the audience of the merit of their hero. Finally, students will present their hero award presentation to their class or community using PowerPoint.

**Invitation:**

Have you ever wanted to award someone a medal for what they have done? Is there someone you know that is a great person, but has never been recognized? Is there a famous person you want to know more about, but haven't had the time to research? Your time has come... You get to present: THE HERO AWARDS.

First, you will work with a small group to brainstorm and agree upon a definition of a hero. This is your time to throw ideas around, argue, open your mind, and debate. You will then think of heroes who live those qualities. Get out those photo books and look hard! You are looking for people of all races, genders, and ages to fill out your list. Be creative! Talk to your friends and family and ASK!

Next, you will divide your research tasks and get started. Some of you will be researching on the Internet, others in books or magazines, and some might be conducting interviews. This is the heart of the matter. You are here to prove that your hero deserves recognition, so research and prove to your audience that your hero needs recognition.

Lastly, you will be creating PowerPoint presentations to demonstrate your knowledge. After you type your information into slides, discover how to WOW your audience with pictures, clip art, music, and animation. This is your chance to persuade your audience of the valor of your choice. Choosing your own heroes makes you think and evaluate your own values. Who would you include in a textbook?

**Situations:**

**Where:** This lesson will take place in an English classroom, a computer mini-lab, and in the library.

**When:** During English class, at the beginning or middle of the school year.

**How Long:** This lesson will take up to four weeks.

- Week 1- Hero definition and research.
- Week 2- PowerPoint demonstrations and typing slides.
- Week 3- Finish typing slides, add clip art and animation.
- Week 4- Practice and presentations.

**Tasks:****Task 1:**

Students will bring in resources on famous people and heroes. Students will view the following Webquests:

"In Search of a Hero"

<http://coe.west.asu.edu/students/lcooper/wpheroesmenu.htm>

"Think Different"

<http://users.cwnet.com/phillips/wq.thinkdifferent.htm>

**Task 2:**

The teacher will introduce lesson with the Invitation. Students will brainstorm characteristics of heroes and examples of heroes as a full-class discussion. The teacher will guide students to categorize heroes into different groups and will ask students for examples of heroes in their own experiences.

**Task 3:**

Students break into research groups of five or six, using the "Teacher Organization Chart" attachment. Groups will research heroes from one category, such as war, sports, science, childhood, technology, etc. The teacher will select topics that are of interest to students. Students will complete the "Worksheet: Naming Your Heroes" attachment. Each group will choose their hero by the end of the activity.

**Task 4:**

The teacher presents the "Handout: What is a Lead?" attachment. Each student will write a lead based on the handout. The group will choose the lead sentence based upon that lead.

**Task 5:**

Students will divide the research tasks among group members, one per person:

1. Family background
2. Adversities in his/her life and how he/she overcame them
3. Accomplishments: What makes his/her a hero?
4. Future plans/goals
5. Lead paragraph and conclusion: expands the lead to introduce the hero and writes a concluding paragraph
6. Bibliography and transition

**Task 6:**

Students will learn to use the Graphic Organizers attachments. (See the "Worksheet: Research Graphic Organizers" and "Sample: Graphic Organizers" attachments.) The teacher will project the photocopied document using an overhead projector or the computer document using a projection device. (See the "Step Sheet: Using a Projection Device" attachment.)

**Task 7:**

Students will complete research. The teacher will present the "PowerPoint Presentation: Hero Awards" attachment.

**Task 8:**

Each student group will be assigned a computer (for example, Political Hero – Computer 1). Students will type their slides, one at a time.

**Task 9:**

Groups will edit the presentations. The teacher will introduce the oral presentation rubric and students will present their PowerPoint presentation to one other group. Groups will evaluate each other and provide feedback for improvement.

**Task 10:**

Students will present to the class and/or other school and community members.

**Interactions:**

**Full Class:** Students work as a whole class to brainstorm the characteristics of a hero and begin to list specific heroes. The whole class is the audience for demonstrations and the final PowerPoint presentations.

**Small Groups:** Students complete research in small groups and create a PowerPoint presentation. Each small group will present their PowerPoint

presentation to another group and receive feedback on their run through on the class rubric.

**Individual:** Students will write and type their own slides about their hero.

**Standards:**

1.3 Use strategies of note-taking, outlining, and summarizing to impose structure on composition drafts.

1.4 Identify topics; ask and evaluate questions; and develop ideas leading to inquiry, investigation, and research.

1.7 Revise writing to improve organization and word choice after checking the logic of the ideas and the precision of the vocabulary.

1.5 Arrange supporting details, reasons, descriptions, and examples effectively and persuasively in relation to the audience.

1.6 Use speaking techniques, including voice modulation, inflection, tempo, enunciation, and eye contact, for effective presentations.

2.3 Deliver research presentations:

a. Pose relevant and concise questions about the topic.

b. Convey clear and accurate perspectives on the subject.

c. Include evidence generated through the formal research process (e.g., use of a card catalog, Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, computer databases, magazines, newspapers, dictionaries).

d. Cite reference sources appropriately.

2.4 Deliver persuasive presentations:

a. State a clear position or perspective in support of an argument or proposal.

b. Describe the points in support of the argument and employ well-articulated evidence.

**Assessment:**

- "Hero PowerPoint Presentation Rubric"

**Tools:**

- Computer mini-lab with four to six computers
- Biographies: websites, books, reference materials, posters of famous people
- Overhead projector or computer projection device
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Six areas for small groups to work independently
- Tape recorder (optional)

**Project Tips and Alternatives:**

**Tip #1:**

Have students research community volunteers or businesses, conduct

interviews, and present actual awards. Invite the community into the classroom. Use the "Worksheet: Community Research" attachment to get your students started and the "Worksheet: Interview Guide" attachment to help them with their interviews.

**Tip #2:**

If you have only five or six computers, assign one group of students to type their slides per day while the rest of the class completes an independent activity such as journal writing or silent reading. Set up a rotation that is predictable for the entire week.

**Tip #3:**

Assign roles: editor, facilitator, animator, sound editor, clip art editor, photo editor. Stick to your assignments.

**Attachments:**

- "PowerPoint Presentation: Hero Awards"
- "Teacher Organization Chart"
- "Worksheet: Naming Your Heroes"
- "Worksheet: Research Graphic Organizers"
- "Sample: Research Graphic Organizers"
- "Handout: What is a Lead?"
- "Step Sheet: Starting a PowerPoint Project"
- "Handout: Partial Hero List"
- "Hero PowerPoint Rubric"
- "Step Sheet: Inserting Text and ClipArt or Graphics"
- "Worksheet: Community Research"
- "Worksheet: Interview Guide"
- "Step Sheet: Formatting a an Annotated Bibliography"
- "Step Sheet: Gathering and Inserting Electronic Images"
- "Step Sheet: Using a Projection Device"

**Web Resources – Content:**

A list of [linked web resources](#) related to the content of this lesson can be found on the Lesson Page.

**Web Resources – PowerPoint:**

A list of [linked web resources for PowerPoint](#) can be found on the PowerPoint Resources page.

**Assistive Technology:**

Please refer to the [Assistive Technology section](#) for information on methods and devices to help ensure that all students have access to the curricula in the least restrictive environment.